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PART X.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

February 1877.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in Turkey.

Part X.

No. 1.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 37.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January* 26, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an article from to-day's "Agence Russe," apparently of official inspiration, on the position assumed by the Porte towards Europe. This article denies the right of Turkey to independence of European control, but reserves the question of the policy to be adopted by Europe to enforce that control.

A *précis* of an article from the "Novaie Vremia" is also published by the "Agence Russe," to the effect that the Conference has benefited Russia by restoring to her the freedom of action which she lost at the Treaty of Paris.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Extract from the "Agence Russe" of January 26, 1877.

La Situation.—ON a vu par notre dernier télégramme que la Porte manifeste l'intention d'accomplir de son propre chef les mesures dont elle a refusé l'adoption à l'Europe. Elle prétend que, Puissance souveraine et indépendante, elle ne peut admettre une immixion étrangère dans ses propres affaires intérieures sans se déconsidérer et perdre tout prestige vis-à-vis de ses sujets; tandis qu'il lui est loisible de prendre telles décisions qu'il lui convient dans la pleine liberté de son action.

En thèse général il n'est personne qui pourrait contredire à un semblable langage et à de pareils principes.

En fait et en droit en est-il de même en ce qui concerne la Turquie? En d'autres termes, ce langage, viendrait-il même à être suivi momentanément de faits, la situation créée aux Grandes Puissances par le refus de la Porte serait-elle changée? Toute la question du moment est-là,—

Pour y répondre d'une manière satisfaisante, il nous paraît indispensable d'envisager les trois faits suivants:—

1. La Turquie est-elle Puissance souveraine et indépendante au même titre et au même degré que les autres Etats?

2. Les promesses de la Porte, sans autre garantie que sa parole, peuvent-elles aujourd'hui avoir légalement une valeur quelconque?

3. L'intérêt qui a conseillé à l'Europe de combiner son action collective dans la Conférence de Constantinople, est-il par sa nature même susceptible d'être abandonné exclusivement à la liberté d'action de la Sublime Porte?

En droit et en fait, il ne suffit pas pour qu'un Etat soit réellement souverain et indépendant à l'égal des autres Etats qu'il en ait les prérogatives, les attributs et les velléités; il faut encore qu'il en ait le plein et entier exercice. Or, une Puissance qui, comme la Turquie, a besoin pour subsister politiquement d'avoir son existence garantie par les autres Puissances, et pour vivre matériellement d'être aidée par elles, ne se trouve pas précisément dans les conditions ordinaires d'un Etat réellement souverain et indépendant, alors surtout qu'elle a enfreint par la violation de ses engagements solennels les Traités qui, en retour de ces engagements, lui ont assuré ces garanties, et que les Puissances auxquelles elle oppose cette objection de souveraineté et d'indépendance sont précisément celles envers lesquelles elle s'est obligée.

Sur ce premier chef la Porte n'est donc pas recevable dans sa prétention.

Sur le second point il n'est point nécessaire d'insister. Après tous les Traités, toutes les Conventions, tous les Hatt et i Houmaïoun et i Shérif, solennellement signés, jurés, publiés, proclamés et demeurés lettre morte, une promesse de plus, fût-elle consignée dans la Constitution la plus Européenne et la mieux écrite, ne peut être désormais pour l'Europe d'aucune valeur réelle. L'expérience a prononcé et les faits lui ont donné force de chose jugée. Chacun sait aujourd'hui qu'entre le pouvoir qui ordonne et le fonctionnaire qui accomplit il y a en Turquie la distance qui sépare le ciel de la terre, avec cette différence pourtant que tandis que la terre subit toutes les influences du ciel, le fonctionnaire Turc, lui, n'accomplit scrupuleusement les instructions de l'autorité centrale que lorsqu'elles lui ordonnent de massacrer des populations ou de faire disparaître des témoins génants. Légalement parlant et aux termes des lois, les promesses de la Porte sont aujourd'hui frappées de nullité.

Sous ce rapport encore, par conséquent, la prétention de la Porte n'est pas admissible.

Relativement au troisième point le doute est encore moins permis. Assurément ce qui a décidé en partie l'action commune des Puissances a été un sentiment d'humanité révolté, mais ce qui a donné à cette action et sa raison d'être et son importance, c'est l'intérêt supérieur et tout Européen qu'elles représentent légalement. Ce n'est pas pour la Turquie elle-même, qu'elles lui ont garanti son intégrité, et que plusieurs d'entre elles ont versé leur sang et leurs trésors, mais en vue de l'équilibre Européen. Aujourd'hui la Turquie peut-elle, a-t-elle le droit, en se prévalant de sa qualité d'Etat souverain et indépendant, de disposer d'elle-même et de son sort comme bon lui semble? Non assurément; car, en ce faisant, elle dispose d'un intérêt supérieur au sien propre, dont la garde et la surveillance appartiennent de fait et de droit à l'Europe, représentée par les Six Grandes Puissances Garantes.

Or, alors même que celles-ci le voudraient, elles ne pourraient, sous peine de forfaiture, de manquement à leurs devoirs les plus impérieux, les plus sacrés, laisser se perpétrer un précédent qui non seulement dégagerait la Porte de toutes ses obligations séculaires envers l'Europe, mais qui, de plus, établirait en principe la souveraineté et l'indépendance de la Turquie et par suite du monde Musulman, sur la souveraineté et l'indépendance des Six Grandes Puissances rémises et, par suite, sur toute la Chrétienté.

Nous réservons la question du prestige, de la dignité et de l'autorité Européenne qui appartient à un autre ordre d'idées, mais dont l'importance, au point de vue de l'avenir, n'est pas moins considérable.

Comme on voit, nous n'avons fait qu'effleurer ces graves questions comme celles que comporte en ce moment la situation et qui doivent certainement préoccuper le plus les esprits sérieux aussi bien que les Cabinets.

Précis of Article from "Novaia Vremia."

Le "Nouveau Temps" accueille avec faveur un long travail où il est dit entre autres:—

"Nous ne devons pas oublier que la fameuse Conférence a été principalement imaginée et entreprise en vue de placer la Russie dans une situation fausse et de l'humilier si possible. Faute de résultats bien marquants, qu'il était impossible d'espérer d'ailleurs en l'absence de toute sanction combinée d'avance, la Russie en aura du moins rétiré cet avantage de se trouver complètement déliée vis-à-vis des Puissances.

"Si l'intervention tardive du Baron de Werther a eu pour effet d'arrêter la Conférence dans la voie des concessions excessives qu'elle semblait vouloir épuiser jusqu'au bout, la Conférence doit lui savoir gré d'avoir quelque peu ménagé

sa dignité. La Russie, elle, peut s'avouer qu'elle n'a pas entravé les idées de conciliation. Elle serait donc,—nous semble-t-il,—autorisée à parler ainsi:—'Je ne veux pas faire la guerre de suite après la Conférence; ce serait paraître vouloir venger l'honneur de l'Europe, dont elle seule est juge. Pour le moment il me suffit que la Turquie, objet pendant vingt ans des complaisances des Puissances, ait répondu à leurs bienfaits par l'outrage et se soit vue retirer la protection de l'Europe. Libre à cette dernière de faire ou de ne pas faire suivre ce châtiment d'un autre plus grave encore. Quant à mes intentions personnelles, je les réserve jusqu'au temps voulu, contente de me voir débarrassée du réseau d'intrigues et de mauvais vouloirs qui entravait ma liberté. Je ne renonce pas pour celà à ma mission de protéger les Chrétiens des Balkans. Ainsi, l'avortement de la Conférence aura rendu à la Russie son droit de libre arbitre. Droit d'autant plus précieux au moment où l'attitude des diverses Puissances, dégagée de certaines obscurités, permet d'apercevoir le but vers lequel tend chacune d'elles. Que cette position soit avantageuse au premier chef pour la Russie, on le voit rien qu'à l'effarement de la presse en Angleterre et en Allemagne, où les journaux se battent les flancs pour démontrer que l'insulte des Turcs n'atteint que la Russie. Au résumé et en réalité la Russie a obtenu pour elle de la Conférence plus qu'elle n'espérait, puisque celle-ci lui a délié les mains et rendu sa liberté d'action. Les Puissances, elles n'ont fait que se désister solennellement des prérogatives stipulées par le Traité de Paris conclu il y a vingt ans dans le but d'abaisser la Russie. . . ."

No. 2.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 1, 2·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 1, 1877, *noon.*

COLONEL HOME wishes following sent to Secretary of State for War:—

"I have returned this morning to Constantinople.

"Captain Ardagh leaves for London viâ Egypt, in accordance with Lord Salisbury's orders and your telegram.

"Captain Anstey leaves for London viâ Odessa on the first opportunity; harbour frozen at present; somewhat difficult. Two officers snowed up in Roumelia. Balkan passes impracticable just now.

"Shall send officers to Rhodes and Cyprus, and return with all the others as travellers, through the Balkan.

"Please state your approval. I assume my despatch No. 17 has reached you.

"Kars and Erzeroum cannot be visited with any advantage now."

No. 3.

*Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received February* 1, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 1, 1877, 11 P.M.

GRAND VIZIER showed me to-day reply from the Prince of Montenegro, which is satisfactory in tone, and expresses His Highness' desire to ascertain the Porte's bases for peace negotiations.

The Grand Vizier will answer by requesting His Highness to determine them himself.

I was informed confidentially that the Porte was ready to treat upon the *status quo ante*, and to offer a rectification of the frontier on the Sutorina side, according to the proposal of General Ignatiew to the Conference.

Any permission, however, given to the Montenegrins to use the pasture lands on the south must not be construed into cession of territory.

His Highness mentioned Constant Pasha as likely to be appointed to conduct negotiations.

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* Repeated to Embassies, except Paris.

No. 4.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 1, 1877.*

THE Servian Agent received to-day a telegram from M. Ristich declining to send Delegate to Constantinople until the Porte states distinctly, either through the Turkish Ambassador or by a direct communication to Belgrade, the nature of the guarantees which it wishes to include in the conditions of peace.

No. 5.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 1, night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 1, 1877.*

THE only confirmation I have of Mr. Jocelyn's report mentioned in your telegram of yesterday, is an answer forwarded to him through me to an inquiry addressed to Monson which states that the Slav Committees in Dalmatia are at this moment very actively at work and making mischief in every way.

Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs denies this, and says that though ill-disposed persons in the Herzegovina are endeavouring to induce refugees not to return, the better class of them are now disposed to do so if the Porte would extend the period of amnesty published last year which is about to expire.

Turkish Ambassador expresses himself satisfied with assurances he receives from Count Andrassy.

With reference to question of guarantees, I learn from Count Andrassy that he has told the Porte it can obtain no stronger guarantee than ruin from which Servia cannot recover for years, and instead, therefore, of raising a question by which national feeling might be excited against Turkey, it should leave the different parties in the Principalities to quarrel amongst themselves as to their responsibility for the disasters of the war.

No. 6.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 9.)
(Decypher.)
My Lord, *Tiflis, January 17, 1877.*

IN respect to the reinforcement of 50,000 men, mentioned in despatch No. 4, nothing further has been reported. I doubt the truth of that report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 7.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 12.)
(Decypher.)
My Lord, *Tiflis, January 18, 1877.*

THIRTY guns, not mounted, 9-pounders, sent to Kutais to be fixed in position at some place. One battery, 4-pounders, also gone to the same town; one battalion also sent to Kutais; eight battalions went there on January 5. Three of these only were included in statement given in my despatch No. 5. One battery of 4-pounders went yesterday to Erevan. At Tiflis total garrison is 9,000 infantry, and of whom three battalions are local and two battalions militia. Two more batteries are going to Erivan. Despatches Nos. 10 and 11 have been sent by and two to Poti for Constantinople.

Total guns in and around Poti in position are twenty-two, and at Nicolya, eight.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 8.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 13.)
(Decypher.)
My Lord, *Tiflis, January 20, 1877.*

CALCULATING the infantry of the Caucasus on a peace footing there were for Turkish frontier purposes 6 divisions, or 46,000; nearly 4 battalions rifles, 1,436 men; and 3 battalions sappers, or 1,800; total 49,316. This, on a war footing, would be 86,520. It seems that 37,000 men were then required to bring the peace up to the war establishment; 40,000 are reported arrived. It is therefore to be inferred that the total of infantry must be about 86,000 on frontier and at Tiflis. The statement given in my despatch No. 5 showed but 75,000 infantry, but to this must be added 5 battalions gone to Kutais omitted, and, perhaps, some others of which I have not any account. Hence we may assume they are at present distributed more or less as I reported in my despatch No. 5. Infantry, 86,520; cavalry, 12,800; artillery, 33 batteries; total about 104,320 men, and this will probably be made up to 114,000 as I reported in my despatch No. 8. Another battalion has gone to Kutais, making in all there 9 battalions.

In regard to cavalry, there are 4 regiments of dragoons, 14 regiments of Cossacks, and 2,000 militia, making 12,800, 18 torpedoes have been placed near Poti.

Much attention is given to strengthening Poti and right of frontier, but nothing has been done apparently on left near Erivan, nor as yet do I hear anything of the formation of any army of reserve. All artillery not yet mounted. Defences not yet finished. Cold at Alexandropol intense; roads other side of frontier bad, hence perhaps Russians are anxious to gain time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 9.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January 22, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed this day by me to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting to his Excellency the state of affairs in Miridicia and the neighbouring districts as observed by me during a visit to Alesïo, from which I returned the day before yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, January 22, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, finding the rumours concerning the agitation among the Mirdites and other neighbouring Christian tribes were daily increasing, I went last week for a few days to Alesïo, the market town of the Mirdite district, in order to ascertain, by personal observation, the amount of foundation for them.

I have found that the uneasiness has been augmented by the so-called precautionary measures that are being adopted by the Turkish authorities in all the districts surrounding Miridicia, and that the activity of certain functionaries has had the effect of alarming both Christians and Mohammedans, who each believe that they are about to be attacked by the others. The danger, therefore, of some common brawl or quarrel, so frequent among these people, being mistaken for the commencement of a concerted onset is not small, and may lead to deplorable events.

There appears to be no doubt that the Mirdites have received from some foreign source about 2,000 Napoleons and, they say, they have promises of much larger sums being sent to them in March. I, however, am still of opinion that these mountaineers accept the money without any intention of doing anything else than maintaining their autonomy, and that, therefore, as long as the Turkish Government does not attempt to encroach

upon this right, or is not led, by panic, to adopt unnecessarily severe administrative measures, the Mirdites will remain as loyal as ever they have been.

Most of my colleagues take a serious view of the existing state of things, and have reported in this sense to their respective Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 10.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha February 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 1 Février,* 1877.

LA Sublime Porte déploie une grande activité dans l'application des réformes qui doivent faire passer dans la pratique les principes de la Constitution. Déjà plus d'une mesure a été prise en vue de cette œuvre de réorganisation. L'Herzégovine est de nouveau réunie au Vilayet de Bosnie, et Constant Pacha, Arménien, a été nommé Mustéchar du Gouverneur-Général de ce vilayet. En Roumélie le Gouvernement Impérial vient de former un nouveau vilayet, qui s'appelera du nom historique de Kossova, et qui comprendra Nich, Charokeui, Pizerend et Usouch.

Vassa Effendi, Grec, est nommé Mustéchar de ce vilayet. Ces décisions nouvelles répondent à des besoins administratifs et sont combinées de façon à assurer la bonne gestion des affaires de ces provinces. Savas Pacha, Grec, élevé au rang de Muchir, est nommé Gouverneur-Général des Iles de l'Archipel Ottoman. Des commissions instituées à la Sublime Porte élaborent activement des lois qui découlent de la Constitution. Enfin, nous travaillons sans relâche à l'établissement d'un système qui doit assurer dans un avenir très prochain le bien-être et la prospérité de tous les peuples de l'Empire.

No. 11.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, February 2,* 1877, 3·35 P.M.

TWO English officers, arrived to-day from the head-quarters of the Grand Duke Nicholas, state that the Russian army is in excellent condition, and fit to march as soon as weather permits.

No. 12.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 2,* 1877.

THE following telegram is from Mr. Monson:—

"The Prince received me this morning. I spoke to His Highness in the language of your Lordship's telegrams, and I urged upon him again the expediency of profiting by the present conjuncture.

"He said that he had telegraphed yesterday to the Porte that he would enter into direct negotiations, but that he was not sanguine as to the result. He had last night received a telegram from M. Ristich that the terms proposed to Servia were much too onerous, and he did not expect that the Porte would offer Montenegro what he could accept. He was in a condition to continue hostilities, thanks to Russian supplies and provisions; and he must frankly declare that the territorial alterations proposed by the Conference did not satisfy him, especially the omission of the seaport. He said, further, that his honour was engaged in the amelioration of the lot of the Christians in the Herzegovina. He, however, assured me that he would not lightly reject the proposals of the Porte, and that he would consult me upon them as soon as received; also that Russia had given him no official advice whatever.

"I think that he is rather puzzled at the attitude of Russia."

No. 13.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3, 1877.)

(No. 60. Political.)

My Lord, *Erzeroom, December* 31, 1876.

THE following information has reached the Commander-in-Chief from the Turco-Russian frontier.

Two chiefs of the Zeilanlee Koords, who inhabit the lands on both sides of the frontier, have received orders to hold 1,000 horsemen ready to join the army.

Volunteers are invited to join the Russian army, to serve in the postal, telegraph, ambulance, commissariat and other civil departments attached to the military service. The pay for such volunteers ranges between fifteen and thirty roubles per month.

The felt-lined tents, it is stated, are made large enough to shelter thirty men each, and a number of Karapapaks have been engaged to teach the soldiers how to pitch them.

It appears that the troops at Alexandrapol are exercised daily in pitching these tents, 150 of which had arrived at that fortress with 300 carts when the intelligence was forwarded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 14.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3, 1877.)

(No. 61. Political.)

My Lord, *Erzeroom, December* 31, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter received here from one of the American Missionaries at Van, giving some interesting details on the fire at Van.

The writer mentions a letter he had addressed to me, giving minute details, sent by the same mail, but it has not been delivered. Should it reach me I shall forward a copy to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Extract from a Letter from Van.

Van, December 17, 1876.

THE burning of the markets is a fact, there is relatively nothing left. I wrote to Mr. Zohrab that 500 houses had been destroyed, but two of the principal merchants here the other day were very confident that the actual number would come nearer 1,000 than 500. The pecuniary loss in merchandise on hand is probably not less than 200,000 liras. Every one states a larger sum, that is, in addition to specie accounts, buildings, and such like. Putting all these items together (a great deal of specie was lost), those best capable of forming a correct judgment say that 1,000,000 liras will not cover the loss. The Turks say that "Allah" was the originator of the fire. It seems quite evident he used visible human instrumentalities. The universal belief among the Armenians is that the soldiers began and continued the fire, and that the soldiers and Turks generally did the plundering. And this belief is substantiated by so large a number of circumstances and known facts, that it is scarcely possible even for a lover of Turks to doubt that it is well founded.

The circumstances and facts are too numerous to mention here. There is one which I did not write to Mr. Zohrab. The Turks at once circulated the report that the reason the fire spread so was that there was so much powder and coal-oil in the shops.

There seems little doubt that powder was an element that entered into the operation quite extensively. But it appears to have been Government powder.

In many shops plundered but not burned powder was found sprinkled about the floor, and ordinary soldiers' cartridges with the end bit off and powder emptied out.

The cartridges have, in several instances, been found since the fire in the dirt and ruins still unemptied and unexploded. The soldiers allowed no attempts to put out the fire, and very rarely allowed a shopowner to make any approach, especially after the fire got well under way. All business is stopped, and no one has heart or courage, and very few have any materials or goods to begin with.

The accumulations of hundreds of years, made in most instances by the ordinary slow process of trade and economy, have been swept away in one night. Large numbers, not merchants to whom money was due, or who had put their little fortunes in the hands of merchants, are losers of their all. The Christians have been, and are still, in great terror, lest numerous threats to make what has been only the beginning of greater evils, should be put into execution. Soldiers have patrolled the streets for a few nights past, and the Government is making some little Turkish effort to find stolen goods; but so far as we can learn, it is done with about the efficiency with which reforms have been heretofore executed.

There is no army officer of any account here, and it is said that the soldiers are all from this vicinity, and hence the Christians look upon them as an element of danger.

No. 15.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 3. Political.)

My Lord, *Erzeroom, January* 8, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose extracts from the letter from Van, alluded to in my despatch political No. 61 of the 31st December.

The greater part of the information contained in the inclosed extracts having also reached me from other sources, Mussulman as well as Christian, I believe there is no room left for doubt that the fire was planned by the Mussulmans of Van, aided by a battalion of Redif infantry, composed of natives of the place.

The Christians of Van had become aware that the Mussulmans were plotting against them; and a week before the fire took place they telegraphed to the Governor-General here, informing him of their suspicions, and imploring protection. His Excellency unfortunately took no notice of the telegram, treating it as the production of a panic which had no foundation, and thus no steps whatever were taken to control the Mussulmans. It is probable the Mussulmans knew of this telegram, and seeing that no notice was taken of it, worked with greater boldness.

The Grand Vizier is aware that such a telegram was sent, as the sufferers informed him, by telegraph direct, twenty-four hours after the conflagration, and his Highness, with the Armenian Patriarch, had a long conversation by telegraph with the authorities and Armenian Bishop of Van, when, I am told, he received all the details.

I hear from a reliable source that a Mussulman from Van who is here states that a plot against the Christians of Van had been for some time past planning; that a massacre of the Christians was discussed, but disapproved as too dangerous, and the fire was decided on as leaving no traces to inculpate the promoters.

By order from Constantinople two commissioners, Nazim Bey and Hatchator Khan Effendi, have been sent to Van to make an investigation. Nazim Bey, who was at Mossul investigating Turco-Persian frontier questions, has arrived in Van. Hatchator Khan Effendi, an Armenian of this town, left this two days since. The orders given to the latter are pretty clear to the effect that he must exculpate the military from all blame.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Extract from a Letter from Van.

Van, December 14, 1876.

THE night before last, about 9 P.M., we saw a large fire in the direction of the city (walled), but gave it no special thought. In the morning we learned that the whole market had been burned and plundered. We supposed at first it was fright, and the usual native exaggeration that made the story so large; but throughout the day, yesterday and to-day, confirmations have come in from various sources, from eye-witness, from those who have lost and those who have not, so that it is quite certain that not less than 500 shops were burnt or plundered; the very large proportion of these have suffered both disasters; all the wealthiest parts of the market are in ashes; what remains are only small shops on the outskirts. The buildings plundered, but not burnt, were owned by Turks, and rented to Armenians. Of the cause of the fire you have doubtless heard before this from the Turks. Their version is, as I understand, that it "got a-fire," and "owing to there being so much kerosene in the shops, spread rapidly through all the market." "That there soldiers were there to help put out the fire and keep off the crowd, so that the goods should not be stolen!"

They are as innocent as sucking doves; but the simple facts are, as the circumstances most clearly indicate, it was only a Turkish operation from beginning to end.

I am going into the city, before I end this, so as to gain all the ocular and other evidence I may of the facts; but I will now tell you of circumstances that seem to us to be substantiated. There seems no doubt that the market was set on fire by the soldiers, that it was plundered by them, and all the Turks who could get a hand in.

It seems quite probable that the thing had been cut and dried for some time, and they only waited till all the full stock of goods was in to fire the train.

The last principal caravan for this fall came in only a few days since, and it is said that Turks and horses were on hand from Artimed, a Turkish village two hours away, and that two or three Koordish boats from other parts of the lake were a tthe wharf ready to take part in the plunder, and carry off for comrades.

It is said that the Artimedi men took away their horses loaded, and that the boats also carried off a good stock.

These items seem to come to us straight, but I can only vouch for one thing and that is, the sailing of two or three vessels the morning after the fire. These I noticed particularly, not because I thought they had any connection with the fire, for when I saw them I had not learned the nature of that, but because they seemed starting off in such kind of weather as the natives very seldom put out in.

The soldiers in their zeal to "protect" the stuff forgot to make the least kind of effort of any kind to stay the conflagration. The same forgetfulness possessed all the Turks as a rule, though, it is said, that one "big Turk," who had considerable property in danger, and who seemed not to enter into the spirit of the occasion as did his brethren, but flew about and tried to put out some part of the fire, was quite roughly used by the soldiers and other big ones, was pushed over, knocked down and trampled under foot, &c.

The extreme care of the Turks lest anything should be stolen seems to have been directed mainly to the Armenians, whose property was involved. The owners of shops found great difficulty in getting to their burning shops, and, in very many instances of which I have heard, after they had succeeded in rescuing some articles, especially their money (which they generally keep in the market), they were accused of having stolen it, and were obliged to surrender it into the hands of some soldier or Turk. The soldiers sometimes got into quarrels among themselves over the equitable division of some found money, box, or bag. As late as nearly twenty-four hours after the fire, while yet daylight, two men, of whom I have heard, were stopped on their way between here and the city, and their money taken from them on suspicion of their having stolen it at the fire! The consternation of the Armenians yesterday cannot be described, they were sad and sorrowful, wailing and crying everywhere. Their means of livelihood and the greater part of all their possessions gone in one night, and worse than that, terror of the Turks, lest the fire were only the beginning, or should be the stimulus to something worse. As our carpenters left their work to go home last night, I asked, "Are you afraid of the Turks?" The oldest then answered, very emphatically, "Yes, we are afraid. We know these Turks, their appetite is only whetted by what has been done. We have reason to be afraid. We are helpless in their hands, and there is no one to help us." They very seldom have confessed to fear before, it being a part of their policy to avoid showing any alarm. They look cast down and wail to-day everywhere, and it is evident from their looks as well as their words that they were wakeful last night.

They undertook to send a telegram to Erzeroom yesterday, saying, "that the soldiers had burned the market, and asking for aid," but, as they might have expected, the operator refused to say the soldiers set it on fire.

All business is at an end at present; I do not see how the Armenians can ever have encouragement or courage to begin again under the Turk, even if they can find the means to begin with which it is said very few can.

Aside from Erzeroom, the markets of Van were the largest and best supplied of any interior Turkish city I have seen.

They were built in such a manner as to make it next to an impossibility for a fire to spread from one building to another of itself; and at the time of the conflagration the wind was entirely calm.

Two teachers who called to-day, apparently pretty well capable of forming a fair opinion, said that the loss in goods destroyed and stolen was not less than 200,000 liras, that outside of loss in buildings, accounts, and tools, &c. It is said to-night that the churches have all been closed, as it is not thought safe for the people to congregate in them. They do not wish to meet the fate of the people of Batak. A merchant sat mourning over the ruins of his shop to-day, when an officer came along and told him to be patient and see what will be, "You are alive yet." A good deal of that kind of insinuation is given out at various points.

The Armenians think if the Muralai (Colonel), recently called away had been here, the trouble would not have come, as he showed himself friendly to the Christians in various ways. The Chief of the Police is said to have said not long since, "You think your Muralai will protect you (to a Christian), but we will see by-and-by." Van Turks were told from Van head-quarters the other day to settle up their business and accounts as "we shall all have to go in the spring" (to the war). They have been latterly inspired with tremendous energy, under the battle cry of "Down with the Russians." "This time we will sweep them off the face of the earth."

As yet they show no sign of molesting us. The day before the fire, as Mr. Barnum went into the city, the Turks on the way were unusually gracious, saluting, and blessing, and may-your-journey-be-prosperousing. Yesterday our doctor called on the Pasha, who is sick these days, since dead. The doctor spoke of the fire. "Yes," says his Honour, "there has been a large fire." "Is it known how it was occasioned?" "Allah did it." "The Christians are fearful lest further evil will come to them," said the doctor. His Honour was greatly astonished that they should be afraid, &c. "Why should they be afraid, &c.?" "Do you think there is no danger in our remaining?" "Not a shadow," and his astonishment was increased. "Whenever you wish you can come to my house and stay, &c."

Friday, December 15th.

To-day Mr. Barnum and I rode into the city. The amount of the fire has not been exaggerated. What remains is insignificant compared with what has been destroyed. It is only a wide spread desolation compared with only a few days ago. The burnt region was full of people, mostly shopmen, digging among the ruins for any stray thing of value that may have remained.

Thousands of people were thus engaged. All the shops not burned, and these, as I said before, were nearly uniformly Turkish (though some Turkish buildings were burned), were robbed, as is evident from marks of violence still visible, and from the universal testimony, including some Turks not of the baser sort.

It was a sad sight to see the faces of the merchants. Appeals came to us from every hand to make known to Europeans what we saw; more than once we were addressed with "See, this is the work of the nation you Englishmen are protecting; are they Christians who help a people who do such things as this, &c.?" In strange contrast to the woe-begone looks of the Armenians was the feigned seriousness of the Turks, who walked about, and especially of the soldiers, who, with guns in hand, were guarding the ruins they had made as diligently as though there were need of their presence. Their faces were joyous, and they amused themselves by charging here and there at knots of boys, who stood quietly gazing at the digging in the ashes, hitting right and left with sticks carried for the purpose. I saw frequent sly chuckling, congratulatory greetings as crony Turks came along. Nothing could be more Turkish than that guard of soldiers with nothing under the sun to guard but an ash heap.

There was nothing for the Armenians to steal or harm if they had been disposed, and every shopkeeper was on hand to guard the ashes of his own property, if a guard was necessary.

It is not probable that all the big Turks here favoured such a stroke of finance as has been made. We do not know that the Pasha had anything to do with it. It is quite certain that the soldiers' officers had the thing in their hand, and could have prevented it if they had chosen, or at least prevented such havoc as has been made. There are some steps being taken by the authorities which may be taken from a proper motive, or possibly as a means to exculpate the authorities from blame at head quarters. They have gone with Armenians who had traced their goods to certain Turkish houses,

and compelled the restoration of some articles. But very few things are found. It is said that in his efforts to aid the Christians, the Pasha's son made himself obnoxious, and was beaten by one of the soldiers. I take so little stock in Turkish honour and nobility and justice and all that, that it is hard for me to believe a Pasha's son (young man) would be beaten by a common soldier, who was trying to plunder, if there was not somewhere in the affair a touch of Turkish diplomacy.

However, I am glad to be able to say that the authorities have made, and are still making, a show of activity on the Government side, as related above; but I have yet to learn that the faintest idea of investigating the cause or ferreting out the perpetrators of the magnificent crime has entered the minds of any one. "It was a fire," and "Allah did it," and that is all there is of it. Probably that is the only course possible to the Pasha. At any rate, I do not believe the element that would do such things is within his control, especially as long as the army officers make no effort to restrain excesses of the soldiers.

To-day Turks are reported to have made various threats, such as "We have burned your markets; do you think the end is there?" and the like. We were told that three Turks had been arrested for making such "uncalled-for remarks."

The Armenians, in their despair and desperation, say some things calculated to excite the Turks. We cautioned all that we could against such a course. The few smaller shops overlooked in the sacking, are now emptied by their owners, and there is absolutely nothing left to be sold. The body of a Mollah was drawn out of one of the ruins to-day. In his zeal to protect the contents (Armenian goods) he probably forgot the "kirans" (rafters) were on fire over his head. The doctor's medical student said an Armenian died to-day from the effects of blows at the hands of a soldier, who was busily guarding property.

One thing more I will reserve for another page.

December 16.

Two leading Armenians have just been here. They said, "We are confused and frightened, and know not what course to pursue. We wish to know what you think is best." I gave them all the caution I could to avoid any possible occasion for the Turks to begin to molest them.

It seemed best that messengers be sent to Erzeroum, but these they will send in such a manner that the Turks will not know. I told them they had better get advice from you first, and they will probably send with this a letter* of their own, written in French. There are some who know Russian, and they wish to make known their story to the Russian Consul too. One of the men to-day gave me names, dates and particulars, and he said he could find the parties, if needed, to bear witness to the following, and to two or three similar cases.

He said, that fifteen days before this a Koord, who had been drafted from some neighbouring village, was returning to his home to put his house in order preparatory to his going as a soldier. He (the Koord) had some friends among the Armenians, and business connection, and before he started he told them confidently to get their property into a safe place, and look out for themselves, for they were going to burn the city, and very likely they would kill the Christians. They say that the Government efforts to recover the goods is mere form, and entirely Turkish at that, for the zaptiehs are as likely to enter Armenians' houses, and to take goods away from their rightful owner as away from thieves. When going to a Turk's house they send warning a-head, &c.

They say the soldiers here now are all from Van and vicinity, and think that they might be protected by soldiers from some other region. I told them you might be able to do something for them by securing such a result.

They say the number of shops above mentioned (500) is much below the actual number destroyed.

No. 16.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 4. Political.)

My Lord, *Erzeroom, January 6, 1877.*

I CALLED on Samih Pasha to-day to learn what steps he intended to take for the protection of the Christians of Van. His Excellency informed me that he had

* Not received.

received assurances from Nazim Bey that everything was quite tranquil at Van, that the panic had subsided, and the Christians were re-assured, but not being satisfied with this he had telegraphed to the Armenian Bishop, and was awaiting his reply.

His Excellency read me a telegram received from Nazim Bey, in which that officer states that the fire was accidental, that the soldiers were not at all implicated, that there had been considerable pillaging, but the greater portion of the stolen property had been recovered, that the Christians had evidently been the most active in pillaging, as the greater part of the lost property was found in their possession, that the fire had destroyed about 500 shops and stores, about half belonging to the Mussulmans, who were as great sufferers as the Christians.

I told his Excellency that Nazim Bey's report was contradicted in every statement not alone by current report, but by the information I had received from disinterested persons who had personally taken evidence, and who had visited the scene of the conflagration, and that I could not therefore take the report as a correct statement of facts. Nazim Bey, I added, had only just arrived in Van, that he had not had time even to make a preliminary examination, and yet he had not hesitated to send in a report contradicting in positive terms every statement of the Christians by officially declaring the fire to have been the result of pure accident, by making it appear that the Mussulmans were as great sufferers as the Christians, by stating that the thieves who gutted the shops were the Christians; and lastly, by asserting that the fears of the Christians of further mischief were quite unfounded. I said that if Nazim Bey considered the duty laid on him so light that a mere glance was sufficient for him to come to a decision, I feared his reports would be put aside, as those of the Commissioners sent into Bulgaria by the Porte had been, and probably other means would be adopted to arrive at the truth. His Excellency replied that he was very anxious to get to the truth, and he trusted that Hatchator Khan Effendi would prove an able colleague to Nazim Bey.

On my suggestion, Samih Pashn promised to replace the battalion now at Van by one from Beyazio.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 17.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroom, January 8, 1876.*

I HAVE to report that 4,700 mounted Circassians have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness for instant marching; 4,000 of these men are to come from the neighbourhood of Sivas, and 700 from the colonies near Kars.

The arms for these men are on their way to this from Trebizond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 18.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 6. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroom, January 8, 1877.*

I WAS informed a short time since that General Ignatiew had instructed the Russian Consul here, M. Obermüller, to discourage the enrolment of Christians as volunteers for the Turkish service.

I did not at once report this, as I was not able to learn whether the statement was true or not. Yesterday, however, M. Obermüller told me that such an order had been received by him; that he had acted on it; and that after the first day's enrolment of eighty-four Christians, not one more Christian had entered his name as a volunteer.

I believe that a word from the Russian Consul to the Armenian and Greek Bishops was quite sufficient to stop any movement on the part of the Christians, and I doubt not that word was given, and a movement has been checked which might have been of much

benefit to the Christians, by habituating them to the use of arms, and by accustoming the Mussulmans to see Christians with arms and in the uniform of soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 19.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 2. Political.)
My Lord, *Damascus, January 21, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship the copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, upon public affairs in this district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Damascus, January 21, 1877.*

SINCE the date of my last despatch to your Excellency upon the affairs of this district of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that the private efforts of the civil and military authorities to form a National Guard, having been, later on, aided by Proclamations calling on all Osmanlis to enroll themselves in defence of their country, between 400 and 500 men, including a few Christians and Jews, the latter chiefly Government employés, inscribed themselves.

These public appeals caused some ferment among the Moslem population, when, on the 11th instant, the Sublime Porte, in reply to a telegram from the authorities here reporting the enthusiasm with which the call to arms was met, telegraphed instructions to disband the corps, on the plea that it was not wanted for the present. This was at once done, to the great general contentment.

Whether this instruction proceeded from a knowledge of the paucity of volunteers who came forward in a population said to be over 100,000 souls, or from an apprehension of local disorders resulting from too direct an appeal being made to the religious passions of a fanatical population, I know not; but the consternation among the people by the already heavy drain in men for foreign service, and the ruinous efforts which have been, and still are being, made to purchase exemption from such service, show clearly the futility of appealing to aught save the religious feelings,—a measure which up to now seems to have been carefully avoided.

The Iané (assistance) tax, or forced loan, to the value of 80,000*l.* for the whole of the vilayet, is now being levied on the people at the rate of 10 piastres for the poorer and 20 piastres for the richer classes. All males over fifteen years of age are liable.

Orders were received here last week to prepare for embarkment at the ports of Syria of five battalions of Redifs. One battalion leaves here to-morrow for Beyrout; the others follow from other parts of the vilayet. The news was met by a rush to purchase exemption by all who could scrape together the means, and over 20,000*l.* have been encashed by the military chest during the past five days.

Small bodies of artillerymen and cavalry left here for the coast last week; and the efforts of the authorities are still being directed to the capture of runaways from the outlying districts.

The drain of horses from Syria for the Egyptian market, consequent on the sickness there, has resulted in the military authorities being only able to purchase 80 out of 400 animals required for Damascus.

Trade and commerce are at a standstill; public business may be said to be practically suspended; and the general gloom which has pervaded Damascus for some time daily deepens under the influence of reports tending to show that relief is still far off.

While public order in the city continues to be undisturbed, the attitude of the Moslems seems to be one of sullen resignation; that of the Christians and Jews is one of anxious expectation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 20.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 7. Political.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, January* 22, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of three despatches and their inclosures, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the state of affairs at Mersina, Sidon, and Tripoli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 20.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Beyrout, January* 20, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, reporting on the recent troubles at Mersina, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Excellency, a copy of a report from Captain Hamond, R.N., of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," a copy of a report and its inclosures from Mr. Vice-Consul Tattarachi; also an extract from a letter which I have received from an English gentleman staying at Mersina.

From these it would appear that no serious acts of violence were committed by the Redifs, who do not appear to have been animated by any feeling of hostility towards the inhabitants of either Mersina or Tarsus, but rather to have followed a natural instinct in order to provide for themselves the first necessaries of nature (food and shelter) which were not prepared for them by the proper authorities, upon whom a grave responsibility must rest, since had these poor, hungry, half-naked, and shelterless Redifs met with resistance to their demands for food and shelter, for which they were ready to pay as far as their miserable pittance of caimés would go, bloodshed and other most serious consequences might have ensued.

I consider the conduct of the responsible authorities, both civil and military, of the Vilayet of Adana deserving the severest punishment, for having turned loose such large bodies of undisciplined men without officers, and without providing for them adequate food and shelter, and I cannot consider the conduct of the men blameable in endeavouring to save themselves from perishing by want and exposure when they were able to do so, even at the risk of censure, by the use of intimidation. I venture to think that their behaviour would contrast favourably with what might be expected from an equal number of English militiamen placed in similar circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

Captain Hamond to Consul-General Eldridge.

Sir, *Mersina, January* 13, 1877.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 8th January. In consequence of a telegram I received at Ayas Bay on the 7th from Mr. Skene stating that disturbances had commenceed at Mersina, I proceeded to that place next day.

The circumstances were these: some 3,000 Redifs had been sent into the town without either officers or regular troops to control them. From the governor they received each man daily 1½ piasters, paper money, wherewith to feed themselves; there being no tents they were billeted about the town. The shopkeepers were very unwilling to receive the paper money, and naturally the troops insisted. Being half starved some of them went to different houses asking for food, and in some cases money; amongst other houses they visited that of M. Tattarachi, the British Consular Agent, who gave them some food, and presented them with three liras.

No violence was used or insult offered. I have spoken to M. Tattarachi, who does not wish to make any complaint about the matter.

The fault of the whole matter lies with whoever sent those ignorant and raw troops here without officers.

Some fifty regulars and a superior officer were sent from Adana, and there has been no more disturbances. In fact the Redifs are being drilled and got under discipline.

The Governor here has done his best to re-establish order.

Since my arrival all shops have been re-opened and confidence restored.

As far as British subjects are concerned there are only two or three in the place, the Christians being mostly all Greeks.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PHIL. H. HAMOND.

Inclosure 3 in No. 20.

Vice-Consul Tattarachi to Consul-General Eldridge.

Sir, *Mersyna of Tarsus, January* 15, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's ship "Torch" arrived here to the rejoice of the inhabitants of Mersyna as well as those of Tarsus.

Captain Hamond paid a visit to the Governor, and by this mail he sends you his report of the condition he found these poor soldiers left here unprovided, and no steamers to take them.

The Consular body visited the Captain at my house, and expressed their gratitude for his arrival here in such circumstances.

The European inhabitants of Mersyna sent me also a letter of congratulation which copy I beg to send you inclosed.

The "Torch" has left for Ayas on Saturday night, after taking some coal here. The Turkish officials were not pleased at the arrival of the "Torch," but last night the poor soldiers went armed to the Governor's house demanding from him an augmentation of salary, or, they said, we shall plunder the town; he was obliged to give them six thousand piastres, and two piastres per day; they have been contented, but in case the steamer does not come to take them, I am quite sure that they will do some violations.

Since the arrival of the "Torch" the stores have been opened, and confidence restored, although always some disturbances occur, but of no consequence.

We pray that a man-of-war will come to take them soon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. TATTARACHI.

Inclosure 4 in No. 20.

Letter from European Inhabitants of Mersina to Vice-Consul Tattarachi.

M. le Consul, *Mersina, le* 12 *Janvier*, 1877.

LES Soussignés Européens de diverses nations, habitants dans cette ville, estiment leur devoir de vous prier de vouloir être l'interprète de leurs sentiments dévoués et de reconnaissance auprès le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique pour le concours et protection que l'arrivée de la corvette royale a accordé à cette ville.

En effet, M. le Consul, la présence de ce navire aux eaux de Mersina a été un grand acte d'humanité dû à votre initiative, et pour lequel les Soussignés vous expriment leurs remercîments et vous prient en même temps d'agréer, &c.

(Follows, 36 signatures of European inhabitants.)

Inclosure 5 in No. 20.

Mr. Auketill to Consul-General Eldridge.

(Extract.) *Mersina, January* 10, 1877.

THE state of matters, both here and in Tarsus, is very unsatisfactory. About 2,000 armed recruits, mostly in rags, were brought to Tarsus, and left to do as they could in two large khans there, without covering of any kind, and, worse than all, with a pay of 60 paras per day in paper money, which none could or would change, so that the men could purchase no bread. In desperation they took change by force from several.

I myself saw a body of these ragged creatures, armed with muskets and fixed bayonets make a sortie from a large khan. They came on in a state of fury, but fortunately had to pass the gate of the khan, where the zaptiehs, with shouts, and prayers, and promises, persuaded them to turn back. One minute more, and the stores would have been forcibly entered and plundered. The Mohammedan population had become overbearing to the Christians, who were compelled to close their shops. The town, in fact, was for several days in the hands of an armed mob; and although no actual bloodshed took place, which is generally to their credit, considering that the Government had taken no proper precautions either to provide them with food or officers, yet the Christian population was greatly alarmed in consequence of the numerous petty outrages perpetrated to get change for the paper money or food. In Mersina matters have been very bad also, 2,500 of these recruits having been sent on through Tarsus, armed, but without any officers at all. The community here are unanimous in their gratitude to Vice-Consul Tattarachi, who took all precautions possible, and procured regulars by telegraph from Adana.

The arrival of the "Torch" has done great good by acting on the nerves of the Government, which is alone blameable for gross neglect, not to say misconduct, in this matter.

Certainly both Tarsus and Mersina have passed through a period of danger to life and property. Fortunately these recruits had no cartridges.

Inclosure 6 in No. 20.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Beyrout, January 21, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Abela, reporting on the state of public feeling at Sidon and in that district.

Although I consider Mr. Abela's fears for the future as somewhat exaggerated, still the state of affairs which he reports merits serious consideration, and I have frequently called the attention of the superior authorities of the vilayet to the impunity with which the Mussulmans of Sidon are permitted to insult and even illtreat their Christian neighbours, but without any other effect than promises that the matter should be seen to and rectified, which would appear not to have been done, either through apathy or fear; and it is time that a stop should be put to the present state of lawlessness which appears to exist at that place.

During the past summer and autumn, when the absence in Syria of any displays of Mussulman fanaticism was the subject of remark, Sidon formed an exception to the general rule, though to some degree the example of the people of Damascus and other places was not without a beneficial effect on the Sidonians, who, I hoped, would have been brought by moral pressure from without to imitate their more moderate co-religionists; but in this I appear to have been unfortunately mistaken, as the turn which has been taken by recent events seems to have revived the old spirit of fanaticism for which the people of Sidon have long been notorious.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 7 in No. 20.

Vice-Consul Abela to Consul-General Eldridge.

Saïda, le 19 *Janvier*, 1877.

M. le Consul-Général,

LES différents faits inquiétants qui ne cessent de se succéder, et qui s'augmentent d'un jour à l'autre, pouvant, faute de prudentes et énergiques précautions, amener des suites bien plus tristes que celles de l'année 1860, je me fais un devoir de venir les soumettre à votre connaissance.

Depuis que l'insurrection a éclatée en Turquie, et surtout après les changements qui ont eu lieu dans la capitale de l'Empire, la nation Musulmane, non-seulement qu'elle manifeste une haine et une aversion pour les Chrétiens; mais elle commence à les poursuivre ouvertement sans que l'autorité veille sérieusement à les réprimer.

Il a été toujours remarqué, et même par les fonctionnaires, que lors du départ des

troupes et à l'arrivée des nouvelles du champ de bataille, les mauvais sujets Musulmans et des foules d'enfants parcouraient les rues de la ville en proférant des malédictions et des imprécations contre la religion Chrétienne et les étrangers. A plusieurs reprises ils ont attaché des croix, en bois, aux cous des chiens de la rue et ils ont aussi griffonné des paroles outrageantes et des menaces sur les portes des églises. Toutes les plaintes que les Chrétiens avaient avancées sur ce sujet, loin d'obtenir des bons résultats, leur ont attiré des vexations beaucoup plus dures encore; puisque des mauvais sujets Musulmans s'amusaient souvent pendant la nuit à lancer des cailloux dans leur habitations, et quelquefois aussi ils les importunaient par des coups de fusil qu'ils tiraient par dessus de leurs maisons; leurs enfants et leurs curés étaient toujours molestés par des gamins Musulmans, de sorte qu'ils ont trouvé plus à propos de souffrir l'opprobre et les vexations plutôt que de s'en plaindre, de crainte de s'attirer d'autres malheurs!

L'état des districts dépendants de Saïda n'est pas moins à plaindre, car le vol et le brigandage sont presque continuels; et lorsque les plaignants poursuivent leurs plaintes, il y a des fonctionnaires qui leur donnent à croire que ce sont les Libanais qui commettent ces crimes afin d'exciter peut-être leur haine contre ces derniers, dont ils sont jaloux, et dans le but encore de provoquer des différends avec eux et causer des troubles dans la montagne, comme ils firent jadis, pendant les événements de 1860; tandis que jusqu'à présent on ne peut qu'admirer le bon ordre et la bonne administration qui règne dans le Liban, de même que la conduite prudente des Libanais.

Après la publication de la nouvelle Constitution, les troubles et l'effervescence ont pris un caractère beaucoup plus sérieux; puisque les Musulmans se sont persuadés que la Constitution n'était rien autre chose que l'annulation de tous les règlements, et la stricte adoption de la Loi de Mohamet; et que ce sont les Softas et chefs religieux lesquels, après avoir sécoué le joug de l'Europe, ont décidé le nouveau Souverain à prendre cette loyale décision, lui promettant que l'Islamisme le protègera au prix de son sang et avec son or contre ses agresseurs.

Dans cette conviction, les Musulmans de ces pays ont pris un air beaucoup plus arrogant et plus fanatique que le passé, et ils se sont permis ces derniers jours d'envoyer leurs enfants jusqu'aux portes des écoles et des églises Américaines, pour y jeter des ordures et molester les enfants; le curé de la nation Grecque Orthodoxe, pendant qu'il accompagnait un convoi funèbre, a été insulté par les enfants en présence des zaptiés, lesquels n'ont pas voulu ou ne se sont pas permis de les reprimer de crainte de leurs parents; enfin plusieurs enfants des Représentants des Puissances résidants ici, ont été aussi en rentrant des écoles, maltraités, entre autres, mes propres fils ont été encore battus, et les dernières fois c'était en ma présence.

Toutes les démarches officieuses et amicales que je n'ai cessé de faire tant auprès de l'autorité, des fonctionnaires, et même de notables Musulmans de Saïda, n'ont pu obtenir aucun bon résultat; au contraire, depuis peu de jours les enfants qu'on envoie pour troubler la tranquillité, ont poussé la hardiesse jusqu'au point d'insulter, dans la rue, ma femme et mes filles!

Voyant d'un côté le malheur qui ménace l'élément Chrétien, et en particulier les étrangers, et n'ayant pas pu jusqu'à présent, malgré mes démarches réitérées, arrêter la marche rapide de ces troubles, dont les conséquences seraient fort fâcheuses, si l'on ne s'empresse pas à les remédier; c'est pour cela que je viens, en portant ces faits à votre connaissance, vous prier d'employer les mesures que vous jugerez à propos pour empêcher que la sureté publique ne soit entièrement ravie, et que nous n'ayons pas des événements pareils à ceux de 1860!

Veuillez, &c.

(Signed) HABIB ABELA.

Inclosure 8 in No. 20.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Beyrout, January 21, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 8th instant, relative to the excitement at Tripoli, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a report from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Blanche, from which a slight amelioration would appear to have taken place in the state of affairs in that town, though there still remain serious causes of complaint against the authorities for their

inaction in not controlling more effectually the Mussulmans in the antipathy they display towards the Christians.

The suggestion that a ship-of-war should visit Tripoli I am unable to attend to, as Her Majesty's ship "Torch" has now returned to Ayas Bay, where she will probably remain for some time, as the Admiral has telegraphed that stores and provisions will shortly be sent there for her by Her Majesty's ship "Raleigh."

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 9 in No. 20.

M. Blanche to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Tripoli, le 16 Janvier*, 1877.

LA situation s'est sensiblement améliorée à Tripoli, l'avertissement donné à l'autorité par le vilayet a porté son fruit. Depuis dix jours les Musulmans semblent s'être calmés à l'égard des habitants de la ville, mais leur humeur agressive continue à s'exercer sur les paysans, qui constituent en tout temps leur matière taillable et corvéable et en ce moment plus que jamais.

Les faits sont journaliers et malheureusement ils n'arrivent pas à la connaissance de l'autorité; tout s'arrête à la porte du Serail, quand par hasard un Musulman porte plainte contre un Chrétien, sur le champ celui-ci est mis en arrestation; les requêtes et le jugement viennent en suite. Si la plainte a lieu en sens inverse, il faut que la requête précède tout procédure, et quand le plaignant est un pauvre paysan battu et ensanglanté, il renonce ordinairement à sa plainte faute d'une piastre pour payer un timbre, ou s'il fait sa requête, il est à peu près certain qu'elle restera sans effet. C'est ce que nous voyons en ce moment tous les jours.

Lors de la récente effervescence, les Tribunaux de Tripoli ont pu affirmer au Vali qu'il ne s'était rien passé, parce que rien, en effet, ne leur est parvenu officiellement. Quand j'ai porté à la connaissance de Chakir Bey, puis de son Vekil, certains faits assez graves, ils ont paru fort étonnés de n'en rien savoir, et je crois volontiers qu'ils ignoraient ce qui se passait en ville, mais cette ignorance est inadmissible pour les Tribunaux, qui sont en contact intime avec la population. Seulement ils ont l'ignorance officielle parce que rien ne passe la porte du Serail.

Le Chef de la Police est sans contredit animé d'un mauvais esprit, et c'est lui qui est le plus grand danger par les temps troublés qui nous traversons. Malgré le calme relatif qui règne en ce moment, il est certain que la population Musulmane est dans un état de tension qui inspire de sérieuses et légitimes inquiétudes aux Chrétiens.

On a lu le 13 de ce mois au Serail la Proclamation Vézirielle relative à l'égalité des sujets Ottomans. Cela ne diminuera en rien l'exaltation régnante dans toutes les classes Musulmanes, et il ne faut pas se dissimuler que nous sommes dans une de ces situations où les moindres incidents peuvent amener de graves désordres. Aussi la population Chrétienne aspire plus que jamais à voir paraître quelque bâtiment de guerre, et je ne puis que m'associer aux vœux qu'elle m'adresse souvent à cet égard pour m'en faire l'interprète auprès de vous.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) J. BLANCHE.

P.S.—J'apprends à l'instant que les Rédifs ont ordre de se tenir prêts à partir, et qu'un navire doit venir les prendre pour Constantinople dans ces quelques jours. Ce n'est pas un signe de paix. Il est à noter que toute la population Musulmane est devenu singulièrement belliqueuse depuis quelque temps. Tant qu'il ne s'agissait que de la guerre de Servie, elle ne faisait les sacrifices exigés qu'avec une extrême répugnance. Il semble aujourd'hui que l'Islam en soit arrivé à jouer sa dernière partie, et je suis frappé de l'entrain avec lequel tout Musulman réclame la guerre contre la Russie, plutôt que de subir les conditions connues.

J. B.

No. 21.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 54.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 19, 1877.*

IKIADES EFFENDI, of whose conduct, as a member of the Commission at Philippopolis, Mr. Baring has spoken so highly, has been a few days in Constantinople, and called upon me to-day previous to returning to complete the work still to be done at Philippopolis.

After the Batak case and that of Dervent have been disposed of, the Commission will proceed to Tirnova to inquire into the excesses which occurred to the north of the Balkans.

Mr. Consul Reade, whom I have questioned on the subject, states that after a very careful inquiry he puts the number of persons who perished in the Province of the Danube or Bulgaria proper at 370.

Ikiades Effendi says he has had nominal returns from the chief men of every Bulgarian village which suffered during the suppression of the insurrection, from which the total number killed can now be accurately fixed.

I have requested him on his return to Philippopolis to go through the numbers with Mr. Baring, who will be able to give his opinion upon the degree of credit to be given to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 22.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 59.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 22, 1877.*

AT the last sitting of the Conference the Russian Ambassador took occasion to allude to some addresses which had been sent to the Plenipotentiaries from Thessaly, Epirus, and Crete, and to say that, though the European Powers had confined themselves to questions relating to the late insurgent Provinces, they felt an equal interest in all the Christians of the Empire.

This speech, which is now generally known, far from conciliating the Greeks, has given them violent offence.

One of the leading members of that community, whose interests as a banker lay, as he observed, entirely on the side of peace, has spoken to me of it with unqualified indignation.

He asked whether, after the efforts made by General Ignatiew to place the Slavs in a position of superiority over the Greeks, he hoped to cajole the latter by a few phrases because his attempt had failed.

His countrymen had confidence in the intentions of the present Government, and, knowing that their greater enemy is Russia, are ready to give them every support in resisting her.

Midhat Pasha yesterday paid a visit to the Armenian Patriarch, as he had already done to the Head of the Orthodox Church, and his Highness' efforts to show that former distinctions of creed are to be forgotten are producing much effect.

It may safely be asserted that in the history of this country there never was a moment when, in the capital at least, the cordiality and identity of views between Mussulmans and Christians prevailed in the way it does at this moment.

This may not prevent the exhibition of fanaticism and dislike, which the continued call for soldiers has already given rise to in some districts; but the unmistakeable manner in which the heads of all the religious communities, and all their influential members, who may be presumed to know their own interests, have now pronounced themselves, must make it difficult any longer to maintain the fiction which had passed current with many out of this country that the Russian policy was directed only by a disinterested anxiety for the welfare of the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 23.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 60. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 22, 1877.

AFTER the breaking up of the Conference on Saturday General Ignatiew took Edhem Pasha, the Second Turkish Plenipotentiary, aside, and whispered to him, "Try to get named to St. Petersburgh, and we can arrange all this business there."

Several persons have spoken to me of the wish of the General to open direct negotiations with the Porte, and this afternoon Midhat Pasha told me that the last time he had seen the Ambassador he had dwelt upon the difficulty he had had in inducing the Marquis of Salisbury to agree to the modified proposals finally submitted to the Conference.

The General had said, "You know what these English are; when they once get an idea into their heads it is almost impossible to get it out again, and the difficulty I had to get Lord Salisbury to abandon the absurdity of the Belgian occupation and the confinement of the Turkish troops to the fortresses is past all conception."

Midhat Pasha was quite aware that it was to Lord Salisbury, and not to General Ignatiew, that the modifications were due.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 24.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 62.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 23, 1877.

THE Roumanian Agent has communicated to me note, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, addressed by him to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, respecting the expression in the new Turkish Constitution which gave rise to the protest of the Roumanian Government, of which a copy was inclosed in my despatch No. 18 of the 14th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 24.

Prince Ghika to Safvet Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Le* $\frac{5}{17}$ *Janvier*, 1877.

LE $\frac{30 \text{ Décembre}}{11 \text{ Janvier}}$ dernier, j'ai eu l'honneur de me présenter chez votre Excellence pour lui demander, de la part de mon Gouvernement, si certaines expressions de l'Article 7 de la Constitution promulguée le 23 Décembre précédent visaient la Roumanie.

Votre Excellence m'a répondu que le dit article s'appliquait aux Principautés Unies au même titre qu'à la Serbie et l'Egypte. J'ai dû transmettre à mon Gouvernement cette interprétation devenue officielle, puisqu'elle émanait de votre Excellence.

Cependant le sentiment public en Roumanie s'était vivement ému des termes de la Constitution Ottomane, et le Gouvernement Roumain se voyait, à la Chambre des Députés et au Sénat, l'objet d'interpellations où se manifestait cette légitime émotion.

Devançant les vœux du pays, le Ministère Roumain m'avait envoyé le texte d'une protestation par laquelle il attestait l'obligation impérieuse où il se trouvait de restituer aux relations de la Roumanie avec l'Empire Ottoman leur véritable caractère, tel qu'il a été défini par les Capitulations intervenues *ab antiquo* entre les Sultans Ottomans et les Princes Roumains, et tel qu'il a été consacré par le droit public de l'Europe moderne.

En conséquence, le 6 Janvier, j'ai donné lecture et laissé le texte à votre Excellence de cette protestation; le même jour, par ordre supérieur, afin d'attribuer à ma démarche auprès de votre Excellence la valeur qu'elle comportait, j'ai remis copie de cet acte à MM. les Représentants des Puissances Garantes.

Le lendemain, 7 Janvier, votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser une note, par laquelle votre Excellence, sans mentionner la protestation que j'avais, au nom de mon Gouvernement, déposé la veille entre ses mains, voulait bien affirmer que la Constitution Ottomane, "ne pouvait avoir pour effet d'altérer les conditions d'existence politique d'aucun des pays qui font partie intégrante de l'Empire Ottoman, et qu'il suffisait d'une telle déclaration de la Sublime Porte pour que le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince Charles fût entièrement édifié et rassuré à cet égard."

Le Cabinet Roumain, à qui je m'étais empressé de transmettre la note de votre Excellence, n'a pas cru pouvoir partager l'appréciation par laquelle cette note se terminait.

Tout en tenant hautement compte des bonnes dispositions qui avaient déterminé la Sublime Porte à vouloir édifier et rassurer le Gouvernement de Son Altesse Sérénissime le Prince Charles par rapport à la situation et aux conditions d'existence politique de la Roumanie, le Ministère de Bucarest n'a pas trouvé que la déclaration de votre Excellence fût complètement de nature à écarter sans retour des interprétations contraires à l'esprit ou à la lettre des Capitulations Turco-Roumaines et des Traités Européens.

Il est d'avis que, pour supprimer toute crainte et tout danger d'équivoque, la voie la plus sûre serait que le Gouvernement Impérial, par l'organ de votre Excellence, adressât à mon Agence, aux fins d'être communiquée à Bucarest, une note où il serait expliqué que la Roumanie n'est pas comprise parmi les Provinces Ottomanes dont parle la Charte octroyée le 23 Décembre dernier, et que les liens qui unissent la Roumanie à l'Empire Ottoman sont fixés par les anciennes Capitulations intervenues entre les Sultans Ottomans et les Princes Roumains, et consacrées par les Traités qui ont placé sous la garantie collective des Grandes Puissances de l'Europe la situation politique de la Roumanie.

Dans plusieurs entrevues, j'ai eu l'honneur d'exposer verbalement à votre Excellence la pensée de mon Gouvernement à cet égard. Je prends la liberté de la formuler aujourd'hui par écrit, persuadé que votre Excellence voudra bien employer sa haute intervention pour obtenir de la Sublime Porte envers le Gouvernement de Son Altesse Sérénissime le Prince Charles une déclaration écrite par laquelle serait attesté, selon le droit, l'état réel des relations existantes entre la Roumanie et l'Empire Ottoman.

Dans l'espoir que votre Excellence m'honorera d'une prompte réponse, je vous prie, &c.

(Signé) Général GHIKA.

No. 25.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 63.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 23, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch from Mr. Baring, reporting the trial of Metto Bektash, for participation in the massacre at Batak.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopolis, January* 17, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that after passing sentence on Kara-Boulakli Achmet Tchaoush, the Commission proceeded to consider the case of Metto Bektash of Rakitovo.

Yazbashi Achmet Agha had stated in his deposition that Metto Bektash had gone to Batak at the head of a band of Bashi-Bazouks.

Sofia Vrankovitza had deposed to having seen Metto with an apron on, slaughtering people in the churchyard; and further, that she had seen him pass along the street with some thirty Bashi-Bazouks, who cut down every man they met, but she was unable to state whether Metto himself then killed any one, or not. She had heard that, after the massacre, Metto had been seen going about with a yataghan dripping with blood.

Velo-oglou Giorgi, whose life was saved by Abdi Tchaoush, had deposed that the latter endeavoured also to save his brother, but that Metto Bektash interfered, and led the latter away into a hollow. The witness had seen Metto's head over the top of this hollow, as also an upraised knife, and a few days afterwards, on returning to the place, he found his brother's corpse.

After some remarks respecting certain discrepancies in the evidence of these witnesses, the question of Metto's leadership was discussed.

Portev Effendi said that no man could be called a leader who had not been appointed by the authorities, or who had not himself collected his band. Now, the Bashi-Bazouks of Rakitovo had been called together by the "Ihtiyar Medjlissi;" and, moreover, these irregulars really acknowledged no leaders, but simply followed their own devices. Achmet Agha's statement about Metto's leadership had probably been prompted by a wish to save his own son.

The President observed that Achmet Agha had made no mention of Metto in his earlier depositions.

Ikiades Effendi said that all the information obtained by the Commission proved that every band of Bashi-Bazouks had had some recognized leader. This leadership was always assumed by the most influential or most courageous man in the village.

The real leader of the Rakitovo band had been Hafiz Effendi; but it had been proved that he had returned to his own village in order to protect it against an apprehended attack of insurgents, and that then the leadership had devolved upon Metto.

The reason why Achmet Agha had not mentioned Metto's name sooner was that he had never been questioned about the Bashi-Bazouks of Rakitovo.

The witnesses from Batak had only spoken of the acts of the leaders, and they had frequently mentioned Metto's name.

The President remarked that it was well known to all how Bashi-Bazouks usually behaved, and that it was absurd, therefore, to imagine that they paid any attention to the orders of their supposed leader.

Ikiades Effendi replied that the statement that Bashi-Bazouks habitually disobey their leaders proved that such leaders must exist. Moreover, it was proved that the ammunition which had been distributed by the Government had in every case been handed over to some man who was supposed to be a leader.

Both the President and Salim Effendi objected to these arguments, and it was finally decided by four votes to two that the evidence was not sufficient to prove that Metto Bektash had been a leader, Ikiades Effendi and Yovantcho Effendi forming the minority, while Aho Effendi voted with the Mussulman members.

The question of what Article of the Code was applicable to Metto's case was then discussed, and it was decided that if he was guilty he must be judged in accordance with Article 64, which treats of criminals who are not arrested on the spot where their crimes are committed.

The individual acts of the accused were then considered.

Yovantcho Effendi said that when he visited Batak with Blaque Bey, many women said they had seen Metto kill unarmed people; upon which Salim Effendi and others immediately said that these women should be called as witnesses.

Accordingly, two motions were submitted to the Commission, viz.: 1. Is it necessary to summon other witnesses from Batak to complete the evidence against Metto Bektash? 2. The evidence respecting the charge of murder brought against Metto Bektash being already sufficient, it only remains to pass sentence upon him.

This latter motion was signed by Yovantcho Effendi and Ikiades Effendi only, the four other members answering the question contained in the first one in the affirmative.

In virtue of this resolution, therefore, the case of Metto Bektash had to be postponed, and the witness Sofia Vroukovitza was sent for and asked whether she could name any inhabitant of Batak who would be able to give evidence about his acts.

She named one woman, Metra Stankovitza, and orders were given to summon her before the Commission.

On the following day the case of Kutchuk Khalil was discussed.

This man is accused of having robbed a Greek named Kutchuk Giorgi of a sum of money at Batak.

The case is one of minor importance, and it will not be necessary for me to give any detailed account of the discussion which took place.

Ikiades Effendi thought the prisoner should be sentenced to hard labour, as his crime amounted to robbery with violence, while Abro Effendi held that he should be

acquitted, and advanced arguments which, if generally accepted, would render the tenure of personal property in Turkey even more insecure than it now is.

Finally, the prisoner was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, to date from the day of his arrest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 26.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 67.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 24, 1877.*

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Zohrab's despatch to your Lordship No. 59, Political, in which he reported the recommendation expressed by Samih Pasha, that a Christian Governor should be appointed to the recently separated Province of Van, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that a Christian Armenian Mouavin was appointed at the same time as the new Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 27.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 69.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 24, 1877.*

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram to the Marquis of Salisbury of the 22nd of December, I propose to leave Constantinople to-morrow to proceed to England to report to you upon the situation, leaving Mr. Jocelyn in charge of Her Majesty's Embassy.

As I shall require some one to arrange my papers, I shall take with me Mr. Elliot, Third Secretary to Her Majesty's Embassy, who has been acting as my Private Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 28.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Odessa, January 29, 1877.*

I NOTICE that in a lecture delivered at the United Service Institution on the 19th instant by Colonel Howard Vincent, he states that there are 274,000 Russian troops concentrated in Bessarabia, exclusive of cavalry.

I have the honour to state that I have every reason to believe that the number does not exceed 130,000, including cavalry.

Russian military men admit that there are not more than this number, but state that the Turks have in European Turkey only 50,000 men, regular troops, the rest being irregulars, and with very inferior arms.

Colonel Vincent, alluding to the possibility of war, speaks of the Russian army being reinforced south of the Balkans by 100,000 men disembarked from the fleet, and throughout he assumes the Russian fleet to be a match for the Turkish. As I have had the honour of stating before, the Russian Navy in the Black Sea is nil, with the exception of the two Popoffkas, which are, doubtless, powerful vessels for coast defence and for shallow waters, where the powerful vessels of other navies could not follow them, but it is very improbable that they would be sent away from the coast.

One Turkish ironclad would destroy the whole of the rest of the Russian Black Sea fleet.

Again, supposing the commercial fleet of the Russian navigation to be used as transports, and the Turkish fleet to be idle, they could not carry more than 50,000 men at the most; I doubt if they could carry 30,000 properly equipped with stores for a

campaign. It is often said that these boats could be converted into men-of-war. It would have to be a very radical conversion to enable them to carry guns of any calibre. It is, moreover, most improbable that either they or the two Popoffkas would be allowed by the Turks to leave port. In fact, the Russian fleet, naval and mercantile, can be dismissed from consideration as of any importance in a war between Russia and Turkey, or rather the want of a fleet may fortunately influence Russia not to declare war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

P.S.—There are two corps of about 35,000 men each here and in the Crimea, but none of these could with prudence be withdrawn in case of a war with Turkey.

G. E. S.

No. 29.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Rome, January* 30, 1877.

THE information received by M. Melegari from the Italian Representatives at the Northern Courts, coupled with the assent of Russia to the negotiations for peace between Servia, Montenegro, and the Porte, induce his Excellency to form a somewhat more hopeful opinion of the future than he was inclined to do on the breaking up of the Conference.

He trusts that the Porte now left to itself may see the wisdom of giving spontaneous effect to measures which were rejected at the hands of the Conference, and thus obviate the necessity of further action on the part of any one of the Powers.

The news from St. Petersburgh is of a pacific character—the Government is described as wishing to maintain the European concert and the Slav movement very nearly to have ceased.

On the other hand accounts of a further rising amongst the Mirdites have been received, and it is said that this population have driven the Turks out of certain districts, and have appealed to Montenegro for assistance.

Signor Melegari read to me this morning part of a telegram he had received from General Menabrea, in which his Excellency states that he had heard that Lord Salisbury had told Midhat Pasha that the refusal of the Porte to accept the proposals of the Conference put an end to the Treaty of Paris. Signor Melegari said that he could not take this view. He considered, on the contrary, that the Treaty of Paris should be adhered to as long as possible, as being the only title on which the Powers could found a claim to interfere in the affairs of Turkey, or stand up for the maintenance of her territorial integrity.

His Excellency is very anxious to see Lord Salisbury on his way through Rome in order to ascertain whether what is stated by General Menabrea is really in accordance with his Lordship's views, and if so, to discuss the matter with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 30.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February 3.)

Constantinople, le 1 *Février*, 1877.

LE Gouvernement Général de l'Herzégovine nous signale un télégramme de Raguse d'après lequel les Slaves font signer à nos émigrés en Dalmatie des pétitions demandant l'intervention Autrichienne.

C'est là évidemment une nouvelle tactique du Panslavisme que je vous prie de dénoncer au Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité.

No. 31.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February 3.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 1 *Février*, 1877.

AVANT son départ de Constantinople, l'Ambassadeur d'Allemagne m'a adressé une note pour me signaler l'attitude hostile que les populations de Syrie et de Palestine auraient prise à l'égard des sujets étrangers en général et des Allemands en particulier au nom de son Gouvernement, l'adoption des mesures les plus efficaces pour prévenir de fâcheuses éventualités.

Bien qu'aucun fait ne fût allégué par les Consuls de nature à expliquer les craintes qu'ils avaient exprimées à leur Ambassadeur, des ordres catégoriques ont été donnés tant au Gouverneur-Général de Syrie qu'au Gouverneur de Jérusalem et de Beyrouth pour qu'ils aient à s'attacher de la manière la plus vigilante à empêcher un incident quelconque. Le Gouvernement Impérial est animé du désir sincère de faire disparaître jusqu'à l'ombre d'un doute sur la sollicitude qui entoure la vie et les propriétés des étrangers établis dans l'Empire.

Vous pouvez donner au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères des assurances les plus formelles à cet égard.

No. 32.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 77. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, February* 2, 1877.

THE Duc Decazes told me this morning that he was uneasy at the turn things seemed to be taking in the East, and that he could not help fearing that an influence adverse to the maintenance of peace was at work.

It seemed, he said, that at first the negotiations between the Porte and Servia were to have taken place at Vienna, and that Count Andrassy had assumed to some extent the part of mediator. The Servians had, however, taken fright at the demand of the Porte for guarantees. He had spoken to Sadig Pasha, the Ottoman Ambassador, on the subject, and had received an assurance that the guarantees contemplated by the Porte were merely moral guarantees, which Servia could have no difficulty in giving. He had desired the French Agent at Belgrade to communicate this assurance to the Servian Government, and to urge that Government to go on with the negotiation. Now, however, he had reason to believe that the guarantee the Porte meant to demand was that Prince Milan should come himself to Constantinople to make peace. This, of course, the Porte would not obtain, and thus an unnecessary obstacle involving delay would be raised.

The Prince of Montenegro had, the Duke went on to say, received the overtures of the Porte with verbal expressions of satisfaction, but had hitherto declined to make any written answer, on some pretext that he had no Secretary at hand.

The Duke proceeded to tell me that he had just received a telegram from Vienna which had rather disquieted him. In answer to the communication which he had made to the Austrian Government respecting the application from the Porte for French gendarmes, Count Andrassy sent him word that he thought the Porte ought to be encouraged to undertake reforms, and that if the application for gendarmes had been made to Austria, he should have complied with it.

The Duc Decazes seemed to think that this advice could not have been prompted by a desire to save France from difficulties at Berlin. At any rate it would not in his opinion be prudent to follow it. He had not, he said, distinctly refused the gendarmes, but he had given so little encouragement to the Porte, that Sadig Pasha had now withdrawn the request.

It is needless to add that the influence adverse to peace was belived by the Duc Decazes to be that of Germany. He appeared indeed to feel more than usual anxiety on the subject of the intentions of Germany. He said that the Germans were carrying on a campaign against the Exhibition of 1878 all over Europe, and had extended their efforts even to Norway. Moreover a disagreeable occurrence had, he told me, taken place at Smyrna, which the German Government were not treating in a conciliatory spirit. In a public-house scuffle between sailors belonging to the German ship-of-war "Meteore" and the French ship-of-war "Chateau Renard" one of the Germans had

been killed. Immediately on hearing of it, he had sent orders to the French Consul at Smyrna to make the strictest inquiry into the matter, and had gone to Prince Hohenlohe, the German Ambassador at Paris, and told him what he had done. Prince Hohenlohe had immediately expressed his own thanks, and said that he should certainly be instructed to offer the Duke also the thanks of the German Government.

The thanks of the German Government had never come, and the German Consul at Smyrna, who had at first acted with moderation had latterly, in consequence it would seem of orders from his Government, assumed a different tone, and had demanded that a French sailor accused of having killed the German in the scuffle should be given up to the German authorities.

I observed to the Duc Decazes that it was not unnatural, if not very generous, that the Germans having declined to take part in the Exhibition themselves, should try to induce other nations to follow their example.

As for the sailor of the "Chateau Renard" it seemed, I said, very unlikely that the German Government could require anything more than the strict observance of the law, in a case which was primarily one respecting the proper mode of trying an accused person.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 33.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February 2, 1877.*

IN pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, I have spoken to Servian Foreign Minister on my return here, pressing him to conclude peace with the Porte. I find, however, that though Prince Milan is disposed to do so on the basis of the *status quo ante*, as recommended by the Powers, the demand unexpectedly made for some guarantees may prove an insurmountable obstacle to the success of the negotiations if the Porte is not induced to forego these.

I apprehended some such danger in my last conversation with Sir H. Elliot.

No. 34.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 3, 1877.*

I HAVE spoken to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the guarantees mentioned to Mr. Jocelyn by the Grand Vizier. He expressed a personal opinion that the stipulations, as to Bulgarian refugees and a resident Agent at Belgrade, might be possibly arranged consistently with the *status quo ante*, which would not be the case with the proposal as to the Turkish flag. It appears to me that such a flag on a Servian fortress would be as great an irritation of antagonism as presenting a red one to a bull.

No. 35.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 3, 1877, 5 40 P.M.*

GIVE the following message to Colonel Home from Secretary of State for War:—

"With reference to your telegram of the 1st instant no steps are to be taken for the examination of Rhodes, Cyprus, or Egypt, or other parts of the Turkish Empire.

"Further instructions will be sent."

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* Repeated to Constantinople.

No. 36.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February 3, 1877, 3 P.M.*

HAVING seen Prince Milan I am confident that if the Porte will promptly signify its consent to restoration of peace with Servia on the *status quo ante* principle, admitting the regulation of the frontier on the Drina, there is every chance of the negotiations succeeding. All other stipulations will only produce unnecessary delay, and probably prove abortive.

I shall wait here a few days to enable me to hear from your Lordship.

No. 37.

Consul-General Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, February 3, 1877, 4·25 P.M.*

STATE of affairs in Miridicia is most grave.

A false sense of dignity keeps back the Turkish authorities from taking the first step to arrive at a satisfactory understanding with the Mirdites. Request your Lordship's permission to endeavour to induce Bibdoda to come to treat with authorities. If this is not effected at once no hope will be left of subduing the insurrection, nor Albanian (which has?) already commenced.

No. 38.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 51 B.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 3, 1877.*

I TOOK the opportunity of a visit which I received to-day from the Turkish Ambassador to impress upon his Excellency my advice that the Porte should make peace with Servia on the simple basis of the *status quo ante*, and should not require guarantees, which would almost certainly be refused if they should be of a stringent character, and which, if they should not be stringent, could not be of sufficient importance to justify the risk of failure in the negotiations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 39.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 16. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, January 22, 1877.*

OWING to two Church festivals and a Sunday, I was unable to see M. Jonesco until this morning, when I read to him your Lordship's despatch No. 1 of the 11th instant.†

The Minister stated that, although I had spoken to him unofficially, he should send me an official communication of the most exhaustive character, based upon the investigation which is now being made at Vaslin by Colonel Penkovitz, and that Prefect Lupascu was suspended while the inquiry is being carried on.

I told M. Jonesco that I feared that the outrages were in the main corroborated by the report of M. Burian, the Austrian Vice-Consul. He said that he knew nothing of the report to which I alluded, and could give no opinion on the exactness of M. Burian's statements.

With regard to the mission of M. Protopopescu, mentioned in my despatch No. 13 of the 19th instant, M. Jonesco affirms that he was not sent to inquire into the bulk of the alleged outrages at Vaslin, but to investigate the complaints of two Jews, which had been addressed to the Minister of the Interior.

* A similar despatch was addressed to Sir A. Buchanan.
† See Confidential Print on condition of Jews in Servia and Roumania.

M. Jonesco went at considerable length into the iniquities of the Jews in their dealings with the peasants, and the probable proceedings which had lead to the measures, which had been interpreted as outrages; but in the course of conversation it became clear to me, from his own statements, that the Government, from the quarter-day, St. Demetrius, the 7th of November, have caused the law for prohibiting the sale of spirituous liquors in rural districts to be more completely put into operation.

M. Jonesco maintained that nothing "unusual" had been ordered, which was technically true, but inasmuch as through negligence, connivance, and bribery, Jews often carry on illicit trade, a sudden execution of a neglected law almost amounts to something unusual, and much, of course, depends on the mode of execution, notice, and other circumstances.

As long as the present condition of the Jews is maintained by law, outrage and oppression must ever recur; and as all political parties in this country, whether Conservative, Liberal, or Radical, are equally determined not to relax an iota in this respect, it is to be feared that there is no issue to the matter.

From terrorism, and fear of denunciation being traced and visited on the individual, it is next to impossible to get even the Jews to enter into particulars as to how they are treated, and as the hand of every Wallachian and Moldavian is against the Jews, whatever occurs is invariably maintained to be either an invention or an exaggeration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 40.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 17. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, January 24, 1877.*

I LOSE no time in transmitting to your Lordship a copy of a report, which I have received from the Acting Vice-Consul at Jassy concerning very recent ejectments of Jews; and I am only waiting for further details on the subject before speaking to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

It is, as I gather, again a question of illegal dealing in wine and spirits in the rural districts.

Unless the proceedings be accompanied with outrage and inhumanity, no intercession will be of any avail in mitigating the action of the officials, and I beg to point out most respectfully to your Lordship, that those who take up these cases and bring them to the notice of Her Majesty's Government, should reflect that mere ejectment on account of illicit trade form no grounds for representations to this Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Acting Vice-Consul Triscott to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

Sir, *Jassy, January 22, 1877.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 20th instant, informing me that the Secretary of State desires me to make every inquiry respecting outrages on Jews, in the neighbourhood of Jassy, I have the honour to inform you that similar events have taken place in this district to those which took place at Vaslin.

I have been informed that Jews have been ejected from their cabarets, and in many cases their wine and spirit confiscated and sold in the following Communes in this district:—

Commune of Socola, one Jew ejected from four cabarets; Commune of Bucium, three Jews, one of whom being in possession of three cabarets; Commune of Branesti, four Jews; Commune of Sfünt Joan, one Jew; Commune of Codru, one Jew; Commune of Cuparesti, one Jew.

The Jew before referred to as being ejected from the Commune of Socola, by name Naftali Mühlstein is, as my informant tells me, at present in Jassy, and without means of livelihood. My informant offered to bring him to me to vouch for these facts, as all the persons referred to are personally known to him.

The Austrian Consul in this place, to whom I spoke yesterday, had not up to that time heard of any of these particulars.

I am not aware if the parties referred to are Austrian or Roumanian subjects.

Should you desire, I can further verify these statements by seeing the Jew in question, or send you any further particulars that may come to my knowledge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. TRISCOTT.

No. 41.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 18. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, January 25, 1877.*

In reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 2 of the 17th instant, referring to M. Schendré's conversation with Lord Lyons, I beg to give the most emphatic denial to the statement, that the Jews are neither ill-treated nor discontented in the United Principalities.

The Roumanians may allege that they have the right to legislate as they please in respect of the Jews, and that, from a Roumanian point of view, it is indispensable to the welfare of the country to subject them to civil and political disabilities, but to say that the system is not oppressive in the highest degree, and that the Jews are contented, is a simple perversion of facts.

From the fear of suffering worse things, and being subjected to vexatious interference, the Jews will often decline to admit that their condition is a miserable one, but that they do not make the avowal, is the effect of a wide-spread terrorism.

The Jewish "prolétariat" which exists in Lithuania, Poland, Galicia, Southern Russia, and Moldavia, is no doubt a social evil of the first magnitude; but the evil is not to be met or diminished by oppression and disabilities; while the Grand Duchy of Posen and Silesia offer striking instances of the improvement which may be imposed upon the Jewish population by education, civilization, and above all, by a Government carried out by officials to whom dishonesty and corruption is unknown.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 42.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 70.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 24, 1877.*

THE "Daily News" of the 13th instant contains a letter from its special Pera correspondent, containing such direct charges against me, that your Lordship must forgive me if I depart from my usual rule of allowing the many baseless calumnies published against me to pass without comment.

It is now stated that I have been indirectly shielding the murderers of the people of Bazardjik and Batak, "by supporting and sustaining" Ismail Bey against Mr. Baring, and that I supported Ismail's appointment to the head of the Commission for the trial of Chefket Pasha.

The statement is one tissue of falsehood from beginning to end.

When I received Mr. Baring's reports upon the manner in which Ismail Bey was acting, I caused translations of them to be made and forwarded to the Porte, requesting that he should be warned against continuing in the course he was following.

On different occasions I myself spoke strongly to Midhat Pasha of the determination of Ismail Bey to obtain the acquittal of the accused, and when Ismail Bey called upon me here I was not backward in expressing my dissatisfaction with the whole course of his conduct.

The statement that I supported Ismail Bey's appointment to examine the charges against Chefket Pasha is as untrue as the rest.

I knew nothing of it till after it had been made, and I then at once represented it as in every respect unsatisfactory.

As there may be some persons who may give this correspondent some credit, I have

thought it right to put your Lordship in a position to deny if necessary these last and monstrous mis-statements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 43.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 75.)
Vienna, January 27, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 57 of the 24th instant, I have informed Mr. Monson that a telegram has been published in the papers here, which Midhat Pasha has addressed to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro, proposing that they should come to an understanding with the Porte, with a view to the re-establishment of peace by direct negotiations; and I have also informed him that the departure of M. Wesselitzky from Vienna to Ragusa is reported in to-day's papers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 44.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 76.)
Vienna, January 27, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my previous despatch of this date No. 75, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a telegram from Mr. Monson stating that he proposes going to Cettigné on Tuesday, the 30th instant, when a Prussian Colonel sent to Montenegro on a confidential mission by Prince Bismarck, and Prince Nicholas' secretary, at present at Ragusa, also intend proceeding thither.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 45.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 77.)
Vienna, January 27, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram informing me that the Turkish Ambassador having read to you the telegram addressed by the Grand Vizier to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro, referred to in my previous telegram of this date, you had expressed the great satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the step thus taken by the Porte for negotiating a peace.

In conformity with your instructions I have acquainted Mr. Monson with the substance of your Lordship's telegram, and I stated to him at the same time, in reply to one which I had just received from him, inquiring whether your Lordship has approved of his going to Montenegro, or whether you prefer his addressing a letter to Prince Nicholas, that it was evidently your Lordship's intention that he should enter into personal communication with His Highness. He has also reported to-day that he hears a great deal of Italian intrigues in Albania from his German colleague.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 46.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 78.)
Vienna, January 28, 1877.

My Lord,

IN the course of a conversation which I had to-day with Baron Orczy respecting the telegram addressed by Midhat Pasha to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro, I

said that, on Musurus Pasha communicating it to your Lordship, you had expressed the great satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the step taken by the Porte.

I am told that when the Turkish Ambassador communicated it to Count Andrassy his Excellency made no observation; and as Baron Orczy explained this reserve to me by stating that it is a matter in which the Powers cannot interfere, I replied that your Lordship, however, had considered it expedient to advise the Prince of Montenegro to meet the overtures made to him in a conciliatory spirit, and to endeavour to come to terms with the Porte.

The Turkish Ambassador informs me that the Prince of Servia has already sent an answer to Constantinople expressing his readiness to negotiate, and requesting the Grand Vizier to communicate his proposals through the Turkish Embassy here to M. Zukitch, the Servian Agent.

When Aleko Pasha spoke to Count Andrassy some days ago at Pesth of the intention of the Porte to enter into direct communication with the Principalities, his Excellency appears to have said that, until he had received the memorandum which Prince Gortchakow is said to be preparing on the general question, he could take no action in the affairs of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 47.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 79.)
Vienna, January 29, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 73, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Turkish Ambassador has received a telegram to-day, which he has communicated to the Servian Agent, stating that the Porte does not intend to seek any advantages in consequence of its military successes in Servia, but is ready to make peace on the basis of the *status quo ante*. It adds, however, that it will be the duty of the Turkish Government to obtain guarantees for the future, which can only be defined in the course of the negotiations, with a view to which Aleko Pasha is to propose that a Servian Delegate shall be immediately sent to Constantinople. In promising to forward the communication of the Porte to his Government, M. Zukitch observed that to ask for guarantees would be inconsistent with an offer to make peace on the *status quo ante*.

Aleko Pasha is, however, of opinion that, though guarantees have been spoken of, the Porte is not likely to make demands which would prevent the restoration of peace.

This telegram has not yet been communicated to Count Andrassy, as when Aleko Pasha requested an audience of his Excellency he declined seeing him until to-morrow, probably because he wishes first to learn the views of the Russian and German Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 48.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 80.)
Vienna, January 29, 1877.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED this morning your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, acquainting me with the answer which Mr. Jocelyn reports the Prince of Montenegro to have sent to the Grand Vizier's proposal to enter into direct negotiations with His Highness for the establishment of peace, and I have communicated its substance to Baron Orczy.

I had some conversation at the same time with his Excellency respecting the Prince of Servia's answer to the Grand Vizier, when he said that Count Andrassy has hitherto abstained from expressing an opinion on the overtures made by the Porte to the two Principalities, and that the Russian Ambassador professes to be entirely without any information respecting the feelings of his Government with regard to them.

In the opinion of Baron Orczy, however, the Princes would not negotiate without having been encouraged to do so by the Russian Government. With respect to the observation of the Turkish Agent at Cettigné that the hope of an Austrian occupation of the Herzegovina might induce Prince Nicholas to continue the war, his Excellency said

that His Highness must be aware that he could gain nothing by such an eventuality; and his making peace, therefore, will depend on the Porte being prepared to grant him the territorial concessions which the Conference has recommended.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 49.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 84. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 30, 1877.*

I LEARN from the Turkish Ambassador that he had an interview to-day with Count Andrassy, to communicate to him the proposals of the Porte to Servia, referred to in my despatch No. 79 of the 29th instant, and that his Excellency expressed great regret that Midhat Pasha should have attached to these proposals a question of guarantees, and urged the expediency of its being abandoned.

He pointed out at the same time that a peace with Servia was of the utmost importance, as showing that the Principality considered that the Slav cause had no prospect of success, at all events for the present, and that Servia, ceasing to be a belligerent, would therefore greatly facilitate the negotiations of the Porte with Montenegro.

The Turkish Ambassador, who has communicated this opinion to his Government, believes that the guarantees spoken of are not of a material character, and that they will probably be limited to the extension of the armistice, with a view to prevent the possibility of the negotiations being interrupted, as happened during the first armistice.

I endeavoured to impress on his Excellency the expediency of no time being lost in effecting the arrangements proposed by the Porte; and with reference to Mr. Gladstone's recent speech at Taunton, I pointed out to him the importance to Turkey of the re-establishment of peace being assured, and of reforms in the administration of the provinces being begun before Parliament meets on the 8th of February.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 50.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 87.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 1, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, in reply to your telegram of yesterday, that the only confirmation which I have received of Mr. Jocelyn's report, therein referred to, was contained in an answer forwarded to him through the Embassy, two days ago, to an inquiry which he had addressed to Mr. Monson, and which appears to have reached Mr. Monson after he had left Ragusa.

The answer merely states that the Slav Committees in Dalmatia are at this moment very actively at work, and making mischief in every way.

I have inquired of Baron Orczy whether this is correct, and he has given a positive denial to it, as the Government have received no information whatever of the kind.

With respect to the refugees, his Excellency said that so far from exciting insurrectionary movements in the Herzegovina, the better class of them are now inclined to return, though ill-disposed persons in the province are endeavouring to dissuade them from doing so.

He said those who wished to return are principally persons who have emigrated from the towns, and whose example would have a favourable influence on the refugees generally, but to induce them to leave Dalmatia it will be necessary for the Porte to extend the period for which the amnesty was granted last year, as it is about to expire.

I have also spoken on the subject to the Turkish Ambassador, and he appears to be satisfied with the assurances which he has received from Count Andrassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 51.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 1, 1877.*

I WAS informed this morning by Baron Orczy that the Servian Agent acquainted him to-day with the substance of a telegram he had just received from M. Ristich, stating that it is quite impossible for Prince Milan to send a Delegate to Constantinople, until he receives explanations as to the nature of the guarantees which the Porte intends to include in the conditions of peace. M. Zukitch is, therefore, instructed to request the Turkish Ambassador to urge the Porte to give this indispensable information to the Servian Government, either through his Excellency or by a direct communication to Belgrade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 52.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 90.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 1, 1877.*

M. BALATCHANO, the Roumanian Agent, communicated to-day to Baron Orczy, a telegram from his Government, authorizing him to assure the Government of Austria-Hungary, that no arrangement whatever has been entered into with Russia for the passage of a Russian army through the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 53.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 19. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, January 25, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a third rail is being laid between Kieff and Ungheni, on the Moldavian frontier, in order to permit of the use of rolling stock of the European guage in Russia, and it would also appear that the Russian engineers have accumulated a large quantity of rails at the frontier, with the view of laying a third rail on the Roumanian railway, of the guage of the Russian rolling-stock.

The third rail will, in the first instance, be laid as far as Ibraila.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 54.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 1. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, January 25, 1877.*

I HAD the honour to receive yesterday Sir Andrew Buchanan's telegram of that date, conveying to me your Lordship's instructions as to the language I should hold to Prince Nicholas in the event of overtures for peace being made direct to Montenegro by the Porte.

On the preceding evening I had been informed confidentially that Constant Pasha was expected in Montenegro from Constantinople, on a special mission; and I consequently telegraphed to Sir Andrew Buchanan that I would go to Cettigné as soon as I knew positively that the Pasha was coming.

The weather being exceptionally severe, and the mountain passes between Cattaro and Cettingé somewhat difficult to be traversed in consequence, I may very probably enter the Principality by way of the Albanian frontier.

I think it as well to remark that, not having been at liberty, as I had hoped, to profit by the tranquillity of the last six weeks for the purpose of going to Vienna, I am yet without any information as to the views of Her Majesty's Government respecting the pretensions of Montenegro to territorial aggrandizement, having never received any other instructions than those contained in your Lordship's telegram of last September, to the effect that I was to state to Prince Nicholas that the *status quo* as regarded Montenegro was to be the basis of negotiation.

Neither have I any clue to the propositions likely to be made by the Porte; but I am convinced that unless some potent influence shall have wonderfully modified Prince Nicholas' views, Constant Pasha will find that the price to be paid by Turkey is a heavy one. Without the co-operation of Montenegro all attempts at pacification in the Herzegovina will be useless; and measures have already been taken to stir up difficulties in Albania. Unless, therefore, the Prince receives from St. Petersburgh a hint that Russia desires him to hold his hand, and to come to terms with Turkey, the prospect is not encouraging.

Constant Pasha's known relations with the Russian Agents incline me, however, to regard his selection as negotiator as symptomatic of, at any rate, provisional abstention from mischief in the quarter from which most is to be dreaded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 55.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 4, 1877, 4 P.M.

TEXT of Circular of Prince Gortchakow despatched on Friday to Russian Ambassadors at five Courts is published in to-day's journal. Following is general *précis*. Porte's refusal to accede to wishes of Great Powers creates a new phase of Eastern crisis. Russsian Government has always considered and still considers it a European question. Concert of Powers initiated by Russia having failed, a new basis for negotiation was initiated by England, and a complete understanding among six Powers was obtained at Constantinople, but the results met with decided refusal of Porte. This refusal affects dignity and peace of Europe. The Emperor, desirous of acting as far as possible in common with Europe, wishes before taking a decision, to ascertain views of the other Great Powers as to meeting this refusal of the Porte, and ensuring execution of their wishes.

No. 56.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 4.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, February* 4, 1877, 6 P.M.

I AM told by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he has received a telegram from Constantinople reporting that a party, of which the Sultan's brother-in-law is the leader, are intriguing to overthrow Midhat Pasha. His Excellency expressed much concern on the observation that if the Sultan is blind enough to dismiss a Minister who has just saved Turkey from a great danger and is striving to curb the evils which are ruining it, there is little hope for the Empire.

He seemed to think means should be adopted to thwart this Palace intrigue, but said that he did not see how to do it.

No. 57.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 4, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Pera, February* 4, 1877, 11·30 P.M.

POSITION of Midhat Pasha is apparently becoming insecure.

Khedive's nephew, Halim Pasha, anxious to obtain the abrogation of the Firman,

No. 57 A.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(No. 4 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 5*, 1877.

I HAVE much satisfaction in informing you that I have received a despatch from the Marquis of Salisbury in which his Excellency specially acknowledges the services rendered by you while in attendance upon the British Plenipotentiaries at the Constantinople Conference.

I have now to convey to you the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government of the ability and discretion displayed by you throughout the proceedings of the Conference, and their appreciation of the zealous performance of the various duties entrusted to you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 57 B.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul Holmes.**

(Separate.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 5*, 1877.

I HAVE received with much satisfaction a despatch from the Marquis of Salisbury, in which his Excellency informs me of the valuable services rendered by you while in attendance upon the British Plenipotentiaries at the Constantinople Conference.

I have now to convey to you the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the manner in which the duties entrusted to you were performed, and their sense of the ability and zeal displayed by you on this occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* A similar despatch was addressed to Consuls Blunt and Reade.

which deprives him of the succession, has joined with the Sultan's brother-in-law and some of the Palace functionaries in intrigues against his Highness.

The Sultan has lately shown decided disinclination to sanction concessions required by the Constitution.

Grand Vizier is, however, very determined, and does not as yet apprehend danger of dismissal.

[For Nos. 57 A and 57 B, see opposite page.]

No. 58.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 14.)
(Decypher.)
My Lord, *Tiflis, January 21*, 1877.

SINCE writing last despatch, I find that Prince Mirsky told Italian Consul that 57,000 reserve had in all from the commencement passed from European Russia to Caucasus. If, then, we take 51,000 as about the peace establishment of 6 divisions of infantry, 4 battalions of rifles, 3 battalions of sappers, and 36 foot batteries, and add 57,000, this would give 108,000 men. Now, 103 battalions would require 86,000, and 36 batteries at 300 each would require 10,800. This would make a total of 97,000. There would, therefore, remain 11,000 for train and pontoons for guns in position and for strengthening division in Daghistan. Adding also 12,800 cavalry, there would be a total of 120,800 men. Consequently, 114,000 could be placed on frontier, as I reported in my despatches Nos. 8 and 10.

The number of the reserve, as verified by me, was 40,000 only, but the others might have passed prior to my arrival; be this as it may, this information is useful, as, if true, it tends to show the maximum number of troops now in the Caucasus.

Sixty-eight guns are placed in position on right of frontier, namely, 8 at Nichaya, 38 near Kutais and Ozurget, and 22 at Poti (see former despatches). On the whole, as I reported in No. 10, I believe there will be a total of 132 battalions, but only 103 available for the offensive. Also a total of 142 squadrons, but only 116 available, and 42 batteries of foot artillery, and 7 horse artillery, but only 38 available for the offensive. Russian troops are very indifferent marksmen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 59.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 15.)
(Decypher.)
My Lord, *Tiflis, January 22*, 1877.

THERE was an error in my despatch No. 14. I find that the 57,000 men therein mentioned included the cavalry. We may, therefore, assume the information given in my despatch No. 13 is not far from the truth.

The 57,000 men will have been absorbed as follows: 42,000 required to bring 119 battalions from peace to a war strength; 9,000 cavalry arrived from European Russia, and 5,000 Indo-European for the artillery; making this latter 200 per battery, total force for offensive would seem: infantry 86,000, cavalry 12,800, and artillery 38 batteries, or 7,600; total 106,900 men. Twenty ammunition waggons gone to Akhalzik.

I learn from reliable authority that at this moment an attack is being made by Russia on Kyzil-Arvat, mentioned in my despatch No. 3. I will write more about this to-morrow. Four carts with telegraph apparatus just gone to Kutais.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 60.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January* 29, 1877.

I CALLED on M. de Giers to-day, and inquired whether the Imperial Government had received any information with regard to direct overtures for peace having been addressed by the Porte to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro.

His Excellency replied that the Imperial Government had been informed of these overtures, and that they had signified to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro that they must be entirely guided in regard to these overtures by their own individual interests, and that Russia could neither take upon herself to give advice, nor was she able to assist them.

M. de Giers stated that he had learnt indirectly (I presume from Constantinople) that the Prince of Servia had expressed his willingness to negotiate directly with the Porte through the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna.

The Prince of Montenegro, he said, had inquired at Constantinople the conditions on which the Porte was prepared to treat previous to giving any direct reply to the proposals of the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 61.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 40.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January* 29, 1877.

M. DE GIERS informed me to-day that a Circular despatch to the Russian Representatives at the Great Courts was in preparation, and would probably be despatched in three or four days.

This circular, his Excellency said, would give an historical analysis of the negotiations which have taken place with the European Powers on Eastern affairs, and a statement of the present attitude of Russia in regard to Turkey and the Powers.

From what his Excellency said, I do not believe that any definite proposals will be submitted by Russia to the Powers; but that in summing up the conclusions of the Imperial Government the several Cabinets will be invited to express their opinions with a view to the maintenance of the European concert.

His Excellency, in reply to my inquiry whether the Imperial Government had communicated with the Cabinets of Berlin and Vienna on the present position of Eastern affairs, stated that until the return of the Representatives from Constantinople to their respective Courts, no decided opinions could be formed, and that consequently mere questions had passed to and fro of no important signification; but his Excellency expressly (and with emphasis) observed that this "questioning" had not been confined to Berlin and Vienna, but had equally taken place with all the Cabinets.

I am privately informed that the information received by this Government from Berlin is looked upon as satisfactory, but that Count Andrassy is reserved, and shows hesitation in expressing any opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 62.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January* 31, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose from the "Agence Russe" of the 28th instant a résumé of articles in the leading organs of the Russian press on the proper attitude to be assumed by Russia in consequence of the Porte's refusal of the proposals of the Conference.

I consider these articles to be well worthy of attention, as fairly representing the ideas at present prevalent in leading circles in Russia.

The purport of them is that Russia must remain true to the object she has always

persistently and frankly avowed—the serious amelioration of the position of the Christians in European Turkey; that Russia is indifferent as to the mode by which this object may be obtained, provided it be permanently secured, if by the initiative of the Porte so much the better; but if the Porte fails to accomplish it, then Russia must seek to gain it by the united action either of the Six Powers, or of three of them; but failing these she must use the full liberty of action which the failure of the Conference has given to each Power, and act alone.

To say that Russia will in no case take up arms for this object, would be a mistake. She wishes for a peaceful solution, hopes for it, but cannot pledge herself to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 63.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 46. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January* 27, 1877.

M. DE REUTERN, the Imperial Minister of Finance, called on me to-day.

Having on several occasions during the Oriental crisis conversed with his Excellency on Eastern affairs, and having invariably found him to be extremely moderate in his opinions and desirous of peace, I profited of this opportunity to endeavour to ascertain what view he took of the present state of the Eastern question.

In referring to the breaking up of the Conference at Constantinople, his Excellency observed that he had always been hopeful of a satisfactory arrangement, but that he now felt greatly discouraged, and viewed the state of affairs in a more gloomy light than he had done previously: "Je ne vois pas d'issue de solution de la question," his Excellency said. Russia, he added, had incurred, and was incurring, a considerable expenditure. It would be impossible to continue the present armed state of peace without serious loss to the country; while, on the other hand, the *amour-propre* of the nation would be deeply wounded if no satisfaction of a nature to reassure Europe was given to Turkey.

I observed to his Excellency that the mobilization of a portion of the Russian army had been rather a hasty measure, which now weighed on the Imperial Government, and placed them in a position of greater embarrassment than the other Powers.

His Excellency replied that it was useless now to pass judgment on a measure which had been taken, rightly or wrongly, at a previous stage of the question. The measure had been taken. The Emperor had made a declaration to his people, and these public acts rendered some satisfaction necessary in the eyes of the Russian nation, of a nature to justify the Imperial Government in considering peace as assured. He should greatly rejoice if means could be found to fulfil this end; if, in short, the Imperial Government could announce to the Russian people some result of their endeavours in favour of their Christian brethren in Turkey.

If, continued his Excellency, no solution is arrived at by the month of April, we shall be no longer able to remain inactive, even though we may be obliged to act alone. All, said his Excellency, depends on England and the course which Her Majesty's Government may take

It is my conviction that the foregoing opinions are those predominating among all classes in Russia. A great change has taken place in the public opinion of Russia. There is a general wish for peace, and in no class does it exist stronger than in the military circles. At the same time, it is generally felt that Russia must obtain some satisfaction, small though it be, which may extricate her with honour from the position in which she has placed herself.

If a satisfactory peace should be concluded between Turkey, Servia, and Montenegro, the responsibility of Russia in regard to those States would be relieved; and if the Porte should wisely come to an arrangement with her insurgent provinces, a great step would be taken towards providing that satisfaction to Russia which would enable her to demobilize and to resume a peaceful attitude.

This change in the position of affairs as regards Russia would also be greatly assisted if the Porte should evince a disposition to carry out as far as possible the reforms in her administration proposed by the Conference at Constantinople. This would not only redound to her own credit and advantage, but it would give evidence that the Conference

at Constantinople had not been without result, and that the patient labours of the European Powers had met with their due reward.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 64.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, February 5.)

(Circulaire.)
M. l'Ambassadeur, *St. Pétersbourg, le 19 Janvier*, 1877.

LE refus opposé par la Porte aux vœux de l'Europe fait entrer la crise d'Orient dans une phase nouvelle.

Le Cabinet Impérial l'a considérée dès l'origine comme une question Européenne qui ne devait et ne pouvait être résolue que par l'accord unanime des Grandes Puissances. En effet, toute arrière-pensée exclusive et personnelle était répudiée par tous les Cabinets, la difficulté se réduisait à amener le Gouvernement Turc à gouverner les sujets Chrétiens du Sultan d'une manière juste et humaine, afin de ne point exposer l'Europe à des crises permanentes qui révoltent sa conscience et troublent son repos.

C'était donc une question d'unanimité et d'intérêt général.

Le Cabinet Impérial s'est en conséquence efforcé d'amener un concert de l'Europe pour apaiser cette crise et en prévenir le retour. Il s'est mis d'accord avec le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois, comme le plus immédiatement intéressé, afin de soumettre aux Cabinets Européens des propositions pouvant servir de base à une entente générale et à une action commune. Ces propositions consignées dans la dépêche de M. le Comte Andrassy du $\frac{13}{30}$ Décembre, 1875, avaient obtenu l'adhésion de toutes les Grandes Puissances et celle de la Porte. Le défaut de sanction exécutoire ayant toutefois rendu cette entente stérile, les Cabinets ont été mis, par le Memorandum de Berlin, en demeure de se prononcer sur le principe d'un concert éventuel en vue de moyens plus efficaces pour la réalisation de leur but commun.

L'accord n'ayant pas été unanime et l'action diplomatique ayant ainsi été interrompue, les Cabinets se réunirent de nouveau en vue de l'aggravation de la crise par suite des massacres en Bulgarie, de la révolution à Constantinople et de la guerre avec la Serbie et le Monténégro.

Sur l'initiative du Gouvernement Anglais, ils convinrent des bases et des garanties de pacification à discuter dans une Conférence convoquée à Constantinople. Cette Conférence est arrivée dans ces travaux préliminaires à une entente complète, tant sur les conditions de la paix que sur les réformes à introduire. Elle en a communiqué le résultat à la Porte comme un vœu ferme et unanime de l'Europe, et a rencontré de sa part un refus obstiné.

Ainsi, après plus d'une année d'efforts diplomatiques constatant le prix que les Grandes Puissances attachent à la pacification de l'Orient, le droit qu'elles ont de l'assurer en vue des intérêts généraux et leur ferme volonté d'y arriver par une entente Européenne, les Cabinets se retrouvent dans la même situation qu'au début de cette crise, encore aggravée par le sang versé, les passions surexcitées, les ruines accumulées et la perspective d'une prolongation indéfinie du déplorable état de choses qui pèse sur l'Europe et préoccupe à juste titre l'opinion publique et les Gouvernements. La Porte ne tient aucun compte ni de ses engagements antérieurs, ni de ses devoirs comme membre du concert Européen, ni des vœux unanimes des Grandes Puissances. Loin d'avoir fait un pas vers une solution satisfaisante, la situation de l'Orient a empiré et reste une menace permanente pour le repos de l'Europe, les sentiments d'humanité, et la conscience des peuples Chrétiens.

Dans ces conjonctures, avant de fixer la marche qu'il lui convient de suivre, Sa Majesté l'Empereur tient à connaître celle à laquelle s'arrêteront les Cabinets avec lesquels nous nous sommes efforcés jusqu'à présent et désirons autant qu'il sera possible continuer de marcher en commun.

Le but que les Grandes Puissances ont en vue a été clairement définie par les actes de la Conférence.

Le refus du Gouvernement Turc atteint l'Europe dans sa dignité et dans son repos. Il nous importe de savoir ce que les Cabinets avec lesquels nous nous sommes concertés jusqu'ici comptent faire pour répondre à ce refus et assurer l'exécution de leurs volontés.

Vous êtes invité à vous en enquérir en donnant lecture et copie de la présente dépêche à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GORTCHAKOW.

No. 65.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5, 10·30 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Rome, February 4*, 1877, 11 P.M.

THE impression produced here by the Russian Circular, of which substance has been received to-day, is that Russia has succeeded in securing the concurrence of Austria in designs against Turkey.

No. 66.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 5*, 1877, 12·30 A.M.

PORTE will communicate by a circular to its Representatives the guarantees demanded of Servia.

Grand Vizier stated that assurances with regard to joint flags on fortresses applied only to the four mentioned in the Firman, and not to those actually existing.

On my observing that this seems to imply a demand for the destruction of the rest—a guarantee sure to be objected to—his Highness answered that this point was not to be pressed, but might be discussed in negotiation.

No. 67.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 5*, 1877, 11·30 A.M.

IN compliance with instructions contained in your telegram of the 24th January, Captain Ainstey has started for England by way of Sebastopol and Odessa.

No. 68.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5, 5·6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 5*, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

MIDHAT PASHA has just been dismissed; will probably embark for Mitylene to-day. Nothing certain as to successor.

Possibly Safvet Pasha, with Edhem as Foreign Minister.

Further particulars later.

No. 69.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 5*, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

EDHEM PASHA has been appointed Grand Vizier; rest of the Ministry not yet certain.

I understand that the late Grand Vizier has been exiled, one of the Sultan's fast steamers having had orders to convey him to Brindisi.

Public tranquillity as yet undisturbed, owing to confidence in the new Grand Vizier, but considerable irritation exists against the *entourage* of the Sultan.

No. 70.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

GREEK Consul at Cavalla, in Macedonia, reports a Mussulman attack on Greeks at Bouloustra, in district of Xanthi, on first night of Bairam. Five villagers killed. Ascertain and report facts.

No. 71.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 71.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 5, 1877.

I HAVE been informed by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires at this Court that a despatch has been received from the Hellenic Consul at Cavalla, in Macedonia, reporting that the Greek inhabitants of the village of Bouloustria, in the district of Xanthi, have been attacked by Mussulmans on the first night of Bairam, and that five of the villagers were killed.

I have to instruct you to make immediate inquiries into this matter, and to report to me the result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 72.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 5, 1877, 11·30 P.M.

ITALIAN Minister informs me that he has received a telegram this evening, from which his Government seem to entertain a favorable opinion of Prince Gortchakow's Circular.

No. 73.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 5, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 5, 1877, 11·45 P.M.

TURKISH Ambassador communicated to-day to the Servian Agent the moral guarantees for peace which the Porte expects from Servia, with an intimation that they may not all be insisted on; but the favourable impression produced by this intelligence has been painfully counteracted by a telegram received this evening reporting the dismissal of Midhat Pasha.

No. 74.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 17.)
(Decypher.)

My Lord, *Tiflis, January* 24, 1877.

ONE of the battalions arrived at Tiflis yesterday.

Five hundred militiamen have been pressed into service and will be sent (to) Alexandropol, and 127 ammunition waggons left yesterday for Alexandropol. It would seem, then, there are sixteen batteries there.

There are two telegraph (waggons ?) complete at Tiflis. The telegraph (waggon) mentioned in my despatch No. 15 had twenty-seven versts of wire.

Five hundred Tartar tents have been just purchased from the Tartar(s). They are very warm, and hold some twenty men each. The firm attitude of the Porte has had an effect by no means favourable to Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 75.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February 6.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 5 *Février*, 1877.

SA Majesté Impériale le Sultan, par un Hatt qui vient d'être lu solennellement à la Sublime Porte, a confié le poste de Grand Vézir à son Altesse Edhem Pacha, ci-devant Président du Conseil d'Etat. Le même Hatt Impérial contient les principales nominations suivantes :—

Djevdet Pacha, Ministre de l'Intérieur; Kadry Pacha, Président du Conseil d'Etat; Channès Tchamitch Effendi, Ministre du Commerce et de l'Agriculture; Assim Pacha, Ministre de la Justice; Costaki Adossidès Effendi, Mustéchar du Ministère de l'Intérieur; Channès Effendi Sakizian, Mustéchar du Ministère de l'Instruction Publique; Sadiq Pacha, ci-devant Ambassadeur à Paris, Gouverneur-Général de la Province du Danube; Ali Pacha, Gouverneur-Général de la Province d'Andrinople. Ahmed Véfik Effendi est nommé Président de la Chambre des Députés.

Sa Majesté Impériale recommande de la manière la plus pressante à son Grand Vézir le développement rapide et complet de tous les principes consacrés par la Constitution, et la mise en vigueur de toutes les lois et institutions administratives applicables aux Provinces.

No. 76.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 5, 1877, *midnight.*

THE Imperial Rescript declares the exile of Midhat Pasha from Turkish territory to have been necessary on constitutional grounds. It confirms all the provisions of the Constitution, and announces the reorganisation of the finances by European specialists.

No. 77.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6, 2·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, February* 6, 1877, 2·20 P.M.

GENERAL WALKER learns to-day from Krupp's Berlin agent that Russian Government has given that firm large orders for heavy 26 centimetre guns, and has bought the 58-ton gun exhibited at Philadelphia.

No. 78.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6, 3·25 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 6, 1877, 3·12 P.M.

THE impression at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to-day is that the change in the Government at Constantinople has been adopted from a desire on the part of the Sultan to improve his relations with foreign Powers.

No. 79.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1877, 8·15 P.M.

THE Turkish Ambassador having called upon me on the 3rd instant, I took the opportunity of advising that the Porte should make peace with Servia on the basis simply of the *status quo ante* without asking for guarantees which, if of a stringent

* Identic telegrams were sent to Mr. Jocelyn, Mr. White, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell and Sir A. Buchanan.

character, are almost certain to be refused, and if otherwise are not worth the risk of failure which the demand for them would involve.

No. 80.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 58.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1877.

THE Turkish Ambassador having called upon me on the 3rd instant, I took the opportunity of advising that the Porte should make peace with Servia on the basis simply of the *status quo ante*, without asking for guarantees, which, if of a stringent character, are almost certain to be refused, and if otherwise are not worth the risk of failure which the demand for them would involve.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 81.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 59.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 6, 1877.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 47 of the 18th instant, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the reply which you returned to the letter addressed by M. Bratiano to the Members of the Conference requesting them to take into consideration the claim of Roumania to the Delta of the Danube.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 82.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 6, 1877, 5 P.M.

PORTE, in replying yesterday to the Prince of Montenegro, proposed following bases for peace negotiations:—

Status quo ante;
Rectification of frontier;
Discussion of four proposals made by Prince Nicholas to the Porte last summer;
Mission of a Delegate to treat at Constantinople.

No. 83.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 6, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

SAFVET PASHA told me to-day that the bases of negotiation with Servia, as communicated yesterday to Aleco Pasha, were:—

1. Engagement not to allow Revolutionary Committees.
2. Engagement to give Jews and Armenians equal civil and religious privileges with natives.
3. Not to increase number of fortresses.
4. To receive Porte's Agent at Belgrade.
5. To send a Delegate to Constantinople to treat.

He said that this last point, if agreed to, would probably bring about an understanding on all the rest, and he is most anxious that your Lordship should urge its concession at Belgrade.

No. 84.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Pera, February* 6, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

SAFVET PASHA, in speaking to me to-day of the bad effect which might be produced in England by the recent dismissal of Midhat Pasha, expressed his extreme anxiety lest it should induce Her Majesty's Government to abandon the independent policy which, he had been assured, they now intended to pursue with regard to Turkey.

What he dreads is that Russia should succeed in forming a combination among the European Powers, alleging this change of Minister as a proof of hopeless weakness.

No. 85.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 6, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February* 6, 1877.

PRINCE MILAN sent Sunday night another conciliatory telegram to Grand Vizier with reference to pending negotiations. This afternoon Pertew Effendi arrived here on special mission and came to see me. I facilitated his interview here, but unfortunately his instructions are out of date and have lost their force by the reported change of Grand Vizier, from whom they emanate.

No. 86.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 7, 1877, 3·45 P.M.

YOU may use your best efforts for restoration of good understanding and preservation of tranquillity.

No. 87.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 3.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 7, 1877.

I HAVE received your telegram of the 3rd instant, and I have to instruct you to use your best efforts for the preservation of tranquillity, and for the restoration of a good understanding between the Miridites and the Turkish authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 88.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7, 4·20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 7, 1877, *noon.*

BARING telegraphs that the Commission has acquitted Tossoun Bey in spite of conclusive evidence of his guilt, by a majority of four Mussulman to two Christian members.

I have consequently directed him to withdraw, and, as the important trials are now ended, to return here.

I have made strong representations to Porte on the subject.

No. 89.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 7, 1877, 5 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government approve your using your best endeavours to bring about an understanding between Turkey and Servia.

No. 90.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 7, 1877, 6·15 P.M.*

GIVE the following message from Sir L. Simmons to Colonel Home:—

"You and all officers under your command except one, who may be retained by Colonel Lennox, as previously authorized, are to return at once to England. Captain Ardagh is also to be directed to return at once from Egypt."

No. 91.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret and Confidential.) *Pera, February 7, 1877, 6·40 P.M.*

THE Sultan sent for Safvet Pasha last night and stated to him the cause of the banishment of the late Grand Vizier, anxious that it should come to my knowledge for communication to your Lordship.

He said that for some time past Midhat Pasha had taken up a line calculated to encroach upon his Royal prerogative and to reduce him to a mere nonentity.

Such a result would have been fatal to the maintenance of law and order in this country, where hitherto the paramount authority of the Sovereign was the highest incentive to obedience.

Midhat had tolerated the freedom of the press to a degree insulting to His Majesty, and when remonstrated with had appealed to the Constitution as depriving him of all power to interfere.

His Majesty then stated that from documents in his possession he felt satisfied that Midhat Pasha had failed in his allegiance by aspiring to the dictatorship, and that his removal from the country became absolutely necessary.

Safvet Pasha distinctly confirmed this latter grave accusation to my informant as follows: "I conscientiously believe in Midhat Pasha's guilt."

Before taking leave of His Majesty Safvet Pasha received the assurance that he fully intended to carry out the Constitution, and that the Porte's foreign policy would remain unchanged, especially as regards the conclusion of peace so fervently desired by His Majesty.

No. 92.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February 7, 1877, 9 P.M.*

TURKISH Envoy saw Prince Milan this morning, and is satisfied with conciliatory manner in which his overtures have been received. The new Grand Vizier has confirmed his mission, but it will be most desirable that he should receive powers to conclude a definite arrangement before Servian Agent is sent to Constantinople, otherwise time spent in such a journey may imperil success by raising new difficulties.

Advantage might be taken of the presence of the Envoy at Belgrade.

Prince Milan, waiting for answer to his last communication to the Grand Vizier, possibly sees no objection to prolongation of the state of suspense, but surely it is the interest of the Porte to conclude peace promptly here.

I have delayed my departure hoping to assist in furthering so desirable a result.

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* Repeated to Constantinople.

No. 93.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7, midnight.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 7, 1877.*

FROM Minister for Foreign Affairs language to Italian, he does not seem to approve of Montenegrin negotiations taking place at Vienna.

I have received following from Monson:—

"With reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have seen Prince Nicholas to-day. He had suppressed his first telegram to the Grand Vizier, and has telegraphed this morning an answer in much more moderate terms, accepting negotiations on the *status quo ante* with rectification of frontier on the basis of the proposals of the Conference. He expresses the wish to treat at Vienna."

No. 94.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February 8.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 25 Janvier, 1877.*

PAR ma dépêche télégraphique du 20 Janvier, je vous ai fait connaitre succintement dans quelles conditions s'est accomplie la clôture de la Conférence.

Il est maintenant nécessaire que je mette sous vos yeux l'exposé fidèle des négociations qui viennent de se dénouer d'une manière si regrettable, et des efforts sincères et loyaux que le Gouvernement Impérial n'a cessé de faire pour donner satisfaction aux vœux de l'Europe sans blesser le sentiment national et sans trahir nos devoirs envers le Souverain et envers le pays.

Lorsque, à la suite du second armistice accordé à la Serbie et au Monténégro, l'Angleterre a pris l'initiative de la réunion d'une Conférence à Constantinople, vous n'ignorez pas, M. l'Ambassadeur, que la Sublime Porte, en donnant son adhésion à ce projet, avait eu soin de préciser que les travaux de la Conférence auraient pour base le programme Anglais, tel qu'il nous avait été communiqué par Sir Henry Elliot.

En outre, le Gouvernement Impérial, soucieux de mettre à l'abri de toute atteinte l'indépendance de son administration intérieure, inscrite dans le Traité de Paris, en avait formellement rappelé le principe, se fiant, d'ailleurs, en cela, aux assurances explicites de l'Article 1 du programme Anglais lui-même, et à la loyauté des Puissances Garantes.

C'est dans ces conditions que la Conférence s'est formée à Constantinople avec le consentement de la Sublime Porte. Mais plus il importait d'imprimer, dès le début, aux délibérations de la Conférence une direction conforme aux bases qui avaient été adoptées d'un commun accord et de conserver au programme Anglais le sens dans lequel il avait été proposé et accepté, plus il est à regretter que les Délégués des Puissances aient cru devoir tenir entre eux, et avant qu'aucune explication ait été échangée avec la Sublime Porte, des réunions préliminaires dans le but d'arrêter le projet à présenter au Gouvernement Impérial.

Je n'ai pas besoin d'insister sur le caractère de cette manière de procéder qui consistait à délibérer en l'absence de la partie la plus intéressée et de concert avec celle des Puissances étrangères que sa situation et sa politique devaient faire considérer comme plus spécialement engagée dans le débat; mais je ne puis m'empêcher d'attribuer à la marche suivie en cette occasion par les Représentants des Puissances une grande partie des difficultés que nous avons rencontrées.

En effet, les Délégués Européens se sont présentés avec un programme délibéré en commun et qui semblait vouloir s'imposer à nous par l'autorité de l'entente préalablement établie entre eux.

C'était peut-être enlever à la Conférence quelque chose de son caractère propre, en réduisant la discussion qui devait avoir lieu entre tous à un simple débat entre deux parties seulement, l'une la Turquie tout-à-fait isolée, et l'autre, l'Europe unie en vue de faire accepter un programme arrêté à l'avance.

Quoiqu'il en soit, nous avions le droit d'espérer que, tout en délibérant en notre absence, les Plénipotentiaires Européens ne perdraient pas de vue les conditions originelles et fondamentales de la Conférence, et qui, ainsi que je l'ai dit plus haut, n'étaient autres que le programme Anglais. Malheureusement le projet de pacification et d'entente adopté par les Délégués de l'Europe était loin de circonscrire son objet dans les limites tracées par le programme Anglais et de se reporter aux stipulations du Traité de Paris concernant la non-intervention des Puissances dans les affaires intérieures de l'Empire.

Pour la Serbie et le Monténégro, contrairement à la base relative au rétablissement du *statu quo*, il exigeait des cessions territoriales ; pour l'administration d'une grande partie de la Turquie d'Europe il tendait à inaugurer un système d'institutions qui, dans ses détails comme dans son ensemble, annulait pratiquement l'autorité souveraine. En outre, ce même projet comprenait, sous la dénomination de garanties, un ensemble de mesures qui ne sauraient être proposées à aucun Gouvernement soucieux de son indépendance ; et, tandis que le Programme Anglais n'avait parlé que de garanties morales devant découler du système d'institutions à concéder à la Bosnie et à l'Herzégovine, le projet en question mettait la Turquie en demeure de fournir des garanties pour ainsi dire matérielles et effectives entre les mains des Puissances Etrangères. Je ne m'étendrai pas sur le caractère de cette première proposition faite par les Plénipotentiaires des Puissances, qui, si elle avait été acceptée, aurait remis à des mains étrangères l'Administration et aurait consacré la séparation de la Bosnie, de l'Herzégovine et de tous les pays habités par les Bulgares du reste de l'Empire. Elle devait nous paraître d'autant plus malheureuse et d'autant moins justifiée, qu'elle se produisait au moment même où notre auguste Maître octroyait à ses peuples une Constitution qui assurait à tous, sans distinction de race ou de religion, les garanties de sécurité, d'égalité et de justice que l'Europe réclamait pour certaines provinces seulement et à titres de priviléges.

Vous savez déjà, M. l'Ambassadeur, le sort de cette première proposition qui mettait le pouvoir exécutif et judiciaire, et jusqu'à la force armée, entre les mains des Puissances étrangères. Nous avons refusé énergiquement de nous associer à toute combinaison qui aurait pour effet d'aliéner l'indépendance de l'Etat et successivement, par la seule force du bon droit et de la logique, nous avons réussi à faire retirer la plupart des points du programme de l'Europe, incompatibles avec l'intégrité matérielle et morale de l'Empire Ottoman, en même temps que nous nous sommes appliqués à éclairer la Conférence sur le caractère et la portée de nos nouvelles institutions. Par déférence pour l'Europe, nous n'avons pas hésité non-seulement à formuler nous-mêmes, et à présenter à la Conférence, les bases de l'administration intérieure que nous nous proposons d'appliquer, dans les provinces, conformément à la Constitution, mais encore à adopter celles des mesures comprises dans le programme Européen qui nous ont paru de nature à répondre au but proposé. Il nous était alors permis d'espérer qu'on nous tiendrait compte de notre empressement à suivre les conseils de l'Europe, et que les Plénipotentiaires des Puissances feraient disparaître de leur programme les dernières conditions qui portaient atteinte à des principes que nous n'avions ni le droit ni la volonté de laisser altérer ; mais cet espoir a été déçu ; et, à l'avant-dernière séance de la Conférence, nos collègues Européens nous ont notifié qu'ils maintenaient comme conditions *sine qua non* du Programme à discuter les deux points qui seuls avaient été conservés de l'ensemble des mesures de garanties qui nous avaient été primitivement demandées, savoir : la participation des Puissances à la nomination des Valis et l'institution d'une Commission Internationale chargée de surveiller l'exécution des règlements de l'Administration Provinciale.

Ces deux points, si peu importants qu'ils puissent être si on les rapproche des conditions du programme primitif de la Conférence, n'étaient pas moins incompatibles avec le respect de la souveraineté et de la dignité du Gouvernement Impérial. Nous n'avons pas caché à la Conférence notre impression à cet égard, ni notre conviction que le Gouvernement Impérial rejetterait ces dernières prétentions comme il avait rejeté toutes celles qui s'étaient produites sous l'empire de la même idée d'intervention dans nos affaires intérieures. Toutefois, avant de donner une réponse définitive à la Conférence, le Gouvernement Impérial crut devoir, en raison de la gravité des circonstances, interroger le sentiment public national.

Une Assemblée de Notables de la nation, au nombre de 200 personnes, fut réunie sous la présidence du Grand Vézir, qui fit le tableau sincère et impartial de la situation, sans rien dissimuler des souffrances et des périls auxquels la patrie pourrait se trouver peut-être un jour exposée par sa résistance aux derniers vœux de l'Europe. L'Assemblée tout-entière, après examen et discussion, s'est prononcée énergiquement dans le sens du rejet des deux mesures demandées par l'Europe, déclarant qu'il était préférable de subir les plus durs sacrifices et d'affronter tous les dangers que de consentir à l'humiliation de la patrie. Cette délibération ayant reçu la sanction de Sa Majesté le Sultan, les Délégués Ottomans ont été chargés par le Ministère de déclarer à la Conférence que le Gouvernement Impérial se trouvait dans l'impérieuse nécessité de décliner l'acceptation des deux points en question ; ce qu'ils ont fait à l'ouverture de la séance de Samedi.

Mais, en même temps, ils ont fait savoir aux Délégués de l'Europe que le Gouvernement Impérial proposait de substituer à ces deux mesures l'institution de deux Commissions de Musulmans et de Chrétiens élus librement par la population, l'une pour l'Herzégovine et la Bosnie, et l'autre pour les Provinces du Danube et d'Andrinople ; lesquelles Commissions seraient investies de pouvoirs analogues à ceux que l'Europe proposait d'accorder à la Commission Internationale.

En outre, les Délégués Ottomans ont énuméré les seize points du projet sur lesquels la Sublime Porte était d'accord avec les Plénipotentiaires Européens, en faisant en même temps constater que les points restants pourraient heureusement être réglés au moyen d'un examen contradictoire et d'une courte discussion. En conséquence, les Représentants de la Sublime Porte ont proposé à leurs collègues de procéder immédiatement à cette discussion. Malheureusement, ces déclarations n'ont pas reçu l'accueil que nous étions en droit d'attendre ; les Délégués Européens ont considéré le rejet des deux points relatifs à la Commission Internationale et à la nomination des Valis comme constituant un obstacle invincible à toute entente, et ont mis fin à la Conférence en annonçant leur intention de quitter Constantinople. Cette résolution si regrettable, nous avons tout fait pour la conjurer, de même que nous avons la conscience d'avoir rempli le plus sacré des devoirs, en résistant à des demandes dont le principe seul était une atteinte à la souveraineté et une aliénation de l'indépendance nationale.

En vous envoyant, ci-jointe, la copie du dernier Protocole de la Conférence, je ne puis me dispenser d'appeler votre attention sur le discours prononcé par le Général Ignatiew, et dont le texte s'y trouve renfermé.

Le Général Ignatiew, parlant au nom de tous ses collègues, a émis des idées tout-à-fait inattendues au sujet des conséquences présentes ou futures de la rupture des Conférences, aussi bien que l'application de notre Constitution. Je ne puis relever tous les points de ce discours qui doivent provoquer la critique ou la protestation ; mais je ne dois passer sous silence les passages de cette allocution qui semblent accuser l'Empire Ottoman d'avoir brisé les liens politiques qui le rattachent à la grande famille Européenne, et supprimer les devoirs et les droits que cette situation comporte.

Nous nous refusons à croire que telle puisse être la pensée de l'Europe, ni qu'il suffise d'un défaut d'entente entre les Puissances et la Turquie sur un point en discussion pour anéantir ou remettre en question l'œuvre historique accomplie depuis vingt ans. La même observation peut s'appliquer aux autres paroles comminatoires prononcées par le Délégué de la Russie.

Il n'est pas possible que l'Europe ait entendu s'y associer et dénier ainsi à la Turquie l'exercice des droits et des facultés qui appartiennent à tout Etat indépendant, et cela à l'occasion d'un désaccord qui, si regrettable qu'il soit, ne peut avoir pour effet de renverser le droit public.

Les énonciations du Général Ignatiew présentent ce caractère particulier que, venant à se produire au moment de la clôture de la Conférence, elles mettaient les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans dans une situation on ne peut plus délicate. Rien n'eût été plus facile pour eux, s'ils n'avaient cru devoir soigneusement éviter le terrain sur lequel le Général venait de se placer, que d'aborder un à un les différents points auxquels il venait de toucher pour redresser immédiatement ce que ses affirmations présentaient de défectueux pour la forme, aussi bien que pour le fond. Mais les sujets dont il parlait avaient si peu de relation avec l'objet même des délibérations de la Conférence, et se trouvaient tellement en dehors du programme de ses travaux, que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont pensé qu'il valait mieux, après tout, pousser la délicatesse personnelle envers le Représentant de la Russie jusqu'à ses dernières limites, et ils ont gardé le silence. MM. les Représentants des autres Puissances ont également suivi leur example, et il nous est permis de voir là le signe non-équivoque de l'étonnement avec lequel ils ont entendu les paroles par lesquelles le Général Ignatiew a prétendu rendre la pensée de ses collègues.

La Sublime Porte n'est nullement aveuglée sur les dangers de sa situation et sur les difficultés nouvelles que l'issue malheureuse de la Conférence pourrait peut-être lui créer. Mais elle est persuadée que l'Europe ne voudra pas en aggraver les conséquences en la rendant responsable de cet insuccès, dû exclusivement au maintien de deux mesures dont l'efficacité et l'utilité pratique sont au moins contestables, et qui, sans aucun doute, auraient été paralysées par le sentiment de réprobation générale qui les aurait accueillies, si le Gouvernement Impérial s'était laisser entrainer à les accepter au mépris de toute dignité nationale. Il nous semble impossible que nous ayons ainsi perdu la bienveillance et les sympathies de l'Europe.

Vous voudrez bien, M. l'Ambassadeur, donner lecture de cette dépêche à son Excellence le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat pour les Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique et lui en laisser copie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 95.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February* 8.)

Constantinople, le 4 *Février*, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

LES Puissances Garantes s'étant préoccupées de la nature et du caractère des garanties que nous demandons à la Servie comme complément nécessaire du *statu quo ante*, je vous prie de fournir au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères les informations suivantes destinées à les rassurer et à les édifier complètement. Fidèles à nos précédentes déclarations, d'après lesquelles nous nous en sommes rapportés aux Puissances quant à l'opportunité d'admettre nos conditions primitives, nous n'exigeons pas aujourd'hui des garanties matérielles, mais seulement des garanties morales se résumant ainsi qu'il suit :—

1. Prévenir la formation sur le territoire Servien de bandes armées destinées à porter le trouble dans les Provinces voisines.

2. Prévenir également l'entrée dans les Provinces voisines des bandes formées soit par corps et ouvertement, soit clandestinement et par petits groupes.

Mettre obstacle à la formation en Servie de sociétés ayant un but révolutionnaire et, d'une manière générale, de toute société secrète, quel que soit son objet réel ou apparent.

Etablir à Belgrade un Agent Ottoman.

Indépendamment de la liberté religieuse, les Arméniens et les Israélites jouiront en Servie des mêmes droits et des mêmes priviléges que les autres habitants.

Nous désirons également que, conformément aux stipulations qui ont été faites lors du retrait de nos troupes de la citadelle de Belgrade, le pavillon Ottoman flotte désormais sur la dite citadelle à côté du pavillon Servien.

Enfin, il doit être entendu, en exécution des anciens Firmans, que le nombre des forteresses et l'importance des fortifications existantes ne doivent pas être augmentés par la suite.

Tel est le sens et tel est le but des propositions Vézirielles que nous désirons voir agréées par la Servie, afin de garantir moralement et autant que possible le maintien de la paix et de la sécurité des provinces voisines de la Servie.

Nous sommes convaincus que les Puissances Garantes voudront bien reconnaître l'utilité et l'extrême modération de nos demandes.

Il est bien entendu que les négociations de paix ne sont pas subordonnées à l'acceptation des points susmentionnés. Une fois le délégué Serbe arrivé ici, nous nous entendrons avec lui sur ces points.

No. 96.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February* 8.)

Constantinople, le 6 *Février*, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

MIDHAT PACHA vient d'être relevé du poste de Grand Vézir et éloigné du territoire de l'Empire à cause de sa conduite de nature à ébranler la confiance et en vertu de l'Article 113 de la Constitution. Ce fait n'implique aucune modification dans la volonté souveraine de faire exécuter ponctuellement la Constitution, et aucun changement dans la politique du Gouvernement Impérial. Sa Majesté a prescrit de nouveau par son Hatt d'hier la rigoureuse et libérale application de toutes les réformes et le développement rapide et complet de tous les principes consacrés par la Constitution. En vous énonçant dans ce sens auprès de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, vous vous attacherez à faire valoir auprès de son Excellence les considérations qui précèdent.

No. 97.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha February* 8.)

Constantinople, le 6 *Février*, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

LE Prince du Monténégro vient de répondre au télégramme du Grand Vézir. Il déclare qu'il accepte avec empressement l'invitation d'une entente avec la Sublime Porte au moyen de négociations directes, et il nous prie de lui faire part des bases sur lesquelles les négociations de paix devront être entamées. Son Altesse le Grand Vézir vient de répondre à cette dépêche du Prince Nicholas pour l'informer que la base des négociations

sera le *statu quo ante* sauf rectification sur certaines parties de la frontière et entente définitive sur les propositions précédemment faites par le Monténégro, et pour le prier en même temps d'envoyer un Agent à Constantinople pour traiter avec nous.

No. 98.

Lord Tenterden to Messrs. Rothschild.

Foreign Office, February 8, 1877.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to reply to your letter of the 1st instant,* respecting the cruelties to which the Jews in Roumania have been subjected, and I am to state to you in reply that copies of your letter will be sent without delay to Her Majesty's Consular Agents at Bucharest and Jassy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 99.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 8, 2·30 P.M.)

Constantinople, February 8, 1877, 11·15 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

COLONEL HOME requests following may be communicated to Sir L. Simmons :—

"Your telegram received and the orders conveyed are in course of execution."

No. 100.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, February 8, 1877, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your telegram of the 7th instant, reporting acquittal of Tossoun Bey, I approve your having directed Mr. Baring to return to Constantinople, and your having made strong representations to the Porte.

No. 101.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, February 8, 1877.

(No. 68.)

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of the 7th instant respecting the acquittal of Toussoun Bey, in spite of conclusive evidence of his guilt by a majority consisting of four Mussulman to two Christian Members of the Commission, and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve your having directed Mr. Baring to return to Constantinople, and your having made strong representations to the Porte on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 102.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Foreign Office, February 8, 1877, 4·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Government approve your delaying your departure from Belgrade for the present.

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* See Confidential Correspondence respecting Condition of Jews in Servia and Roumania.

No. 103.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(No. 9.) *Foreign Office, February 8, 1877.*

Sir,

UNDER the circumstances reported in your telegram of the 7th instant, I approve your having delayed your departure from Belgrade.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 104.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 1. Political.) *Trebizond, January 22, 1877.*

My Lord,

THE rumours which have been in circulation since the beginning of the sittings of the Conference at Constantinople have brought to light, or affirmed, feelings that existed in a latent state among the populations of this part of Anatolia, and with which it may be of some interest for your Lordship to be acquainted.

To begin with the Mussulmans: the impression under which they are, that Europe wants to impose upon them humiliating conditions, has had for effect to rouse them entirely from their usual apathy and dejection, which their late successes in Servia had already shaken off in part.

A few months ago it was with great difficulty that the redifs of the 1st class could be collected; wholesale desertions used to take place, and all the available forces of the police were engaged in hunting out the deserters, and conveying them, sometimes bound up, in the town; whenever redifs were embarked, the Pasha of this province was to such an extent in dread of demonstrations that they were for some time (so to say) smuggled away in small detachments as soon as they were recruited.

Now, on the contrary, the redifs of all the classes which remained to be called out flock in readily in large numbers; every day brings in fresh men, many of them with music at their head, and dancing. Although the country is supposed to be drained of men, there are even a few enrolments of volunteers, and the enthusiasm does not seem to be limited to the men—the very adolescents speak of going to the battle-field; and a Turkish lady of the Sazistan is said to be levying at her own expense 1,000 men, at the head of whom she intends to fight herself; the population of that district is, I understand, restrained with great difficulty from crossing the Russian frontier. No doubt in their case, as well as in all irregular bands, plunder is also a great attraction, more especially since examples of good luck have been related by the troops which have returned from Servia; but there are among the Turks at large unmistakeable signs of genuine patriotism and of religious enthusiasm—two sentiments which are always blended in the hearts of the Mussulmans. For it must be remembered that religion is the great link connecting the heterogenous elements forming the present Turkish population, and that the original nationalities to which these different races have belonged having given way before religious conviction, patriotism must necessarily partake of it, although it would be erroneous to suppose that Turks are capable of no better feeling than fanaticism.

Religion being, therefore, the basis of patriotism among the Mussulmans at large, it is natural for them to imagine that the same feeling actuates Europeans. So long, therefore, as one or more European Powers were, in the opinion of the Turks, siding with them, their patriotism could not attain its full development, but it reached its highest pitch the moment when they have been under the impression that all the Christian Powers had abandoned them.

In their minds something like a conspiracy has been concerted against them, and, as it always happens in similar cases, they closed their ranks to resist the supposed onslaught. It would seem as if no better means than the measures which have been practised could have been devised to obtain the revival of the Turks. Most likely the realization of the gravity of their situation, and the isolation in which they found themselves, have worked wonders with them.

In this province they have never been so enthusiastic as they are at the present moment, not even during the Crimean War. In general they do not want war at all costs, but rather than submit to derogatory conditions imposed upon them by Europe, they are ready to fight to the last man. They say that they can stand no longer the

practices of Russia, which aim at their destruction; that if they are to die, it is far better that it should be in fighting.

They do not seem to be dejected at the idea of having no allies; on the contrary, they are proud at being left alone to face the danger, however serious it may be; for if they win, they say, they will owe victory to no one but themselves. They do not appear to be in dread of the Russians, but are confident of success, although they do not conceal to themselves that the struggle will be a deadly one. They look forward, as a possible eventuality, to the unfurling of the standard of the Prophet, in which case, they say, it will be the duty of all and every able-bodied man to take up arms, and not to rest in a "bed" until they have won or perished. They flatter themselves that they will be joined in a war of this kind not only by all the Mussulmans subjects of the Porte, but also by numerous Mahommedans from other parts of the world. They may be too sanguine in their expectations, but when a people so naturally apathetic as the Turks have been worked up to the present state of excitement, it may be fairly presumed that the feeling is deeply rooted and that it is difficult to get rid of it.

Turks are not, as they are often believed to be, sanguinary by nature, nor do they persecute Christians on account of their faith; the contrary might be said of them with more reason. They do not dislike the Christians who live among them, but they hate Russians. They have that pride of all conquerors, and the passions common to all men, which in their case are not mitigated by civilization. Christians being put forward by Russia as a pretext for obtaining the interference of Europe in the affairs of the Empire, they become on that account obnoxious objects in the eyes of the Turks. The intensity of this feeling increases or decreases according to circumstances. At the present moment the Turks are so proud to resist the combined European Powers that they show no animosity to the Christians, who—they understand it well enough—are, in this quarter at all events, entirely at their mercy; but it can hardly be doubted that in the event of being trampled under foot by the Christian Powers, the wrath of the Mussulmans will turn against all the Christians within their reach. I do not think that there is exaggeration in stating that if the Porte submits to the will of Europe at this moment, the Mussulmans in this province are not likely to sanction the decision, and that the consequences of this reaction in the present state of minds may be more appalling than any atrocities which have ever been recorded.

With respect to the Christians, the idea was prevailing among them that if all the European Powers turned against Turkey their security would be greatly compromised. They were nourishing the hope—the conviction, I may say—that England at all events would have sided with Turkey, and this presumption was sufficient to keep up their spirits. Their apprehensions may, therefore, be imagined when they heard of circumstances which, in their estimation, indicated that England had no intention to support Turkey; and their fear knew no bounds on their hearing of the departure from Besika Bay of the fleet, which, in spite of whatever may have been said to the contrary, was considered by the Christians to be a great protection to them.

Furthermore, as Europe seemed to be promoting only the aspirations of the Slavs, and putting aside those of the other Christians, the latter in this Province came to the conclusion that, under the circumstances, their only alternative was to rally themselves to the Turks, from whose wrath they could have nothing to fear if they sympathized with them, and from whom they might perhaps hope at present more than from other quarters. Another motive which has concurred to bring about this result is the dislike which Christians—whether orthodox, Gregorians, Roman Catholic, or Protestants, have for the Russian Government.

The Greeks feel in a lesser degree, perhaps, than in other provinces, but still are fully alive to, the sentiment of antagonism which exists between them and the Slavs. The Armenians entertain some hope of reviving their nationality in Turkey, while they know that they cannot have the shadow of similar expectations under the Russians. The very natives who have become Russians by naturalization, and who are glad to enjoy Russian protection in Turkey, would be in despair if their country was to fall to the lot of Russia. All seem to prefer even the present Turkish rule to the Russian administration.

In conclusion I shall state that, although at first adverse to war, the Christians are come to think that it is, perhaps, after all, the only means to avert from them the impending dangers. In fact, on the one hand, the stirring events which usually accompany hostilities, especially with a formidable foe, will absorb all the energies of the Turks, who, besides, would then have no motive to retaliate against them; while, on the other hand, the chances are that the privileges claimed now only for the Slavs will be then extended to all the Christian populations in Turkey.

It is remarkable that the Christian inhabitants of this province—many of whom have

resided in Russia, many more of whom have travelled in that country, and all of whom, by their living in proximity of it, have occasion to know of its administration—should not consider convenient for them to exchange for it the defectuous Turkish rule under which they live at present.

It is no less remarkable that in this province, in which, owing to its geographical position, the effects of the war must be more keenly felt than in other localities, the Mussulmans as well as the Christians, although moved by different and opposite motives, should have arrived at the same conclusion on the subject of the rejection of the proposals of Europe.

The existing feelings may be modified by circumstances in a more or less distant period, either among the Mussulmans or Christians; but, so far as I have been able to judge, they are at present such as I have tried to describe them in the present despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 105.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 75.) *Constantinople, January* 26, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of four Addresses which have been received by Her Majesty's Ambassador on the occasion of his quitting Constantinople on leave of absence.

These have been presented by the representatives of different Christian communities throughout the country, the Protestant, Armenian, and Armenian-Catholic, and, finally, the British residents in Turkey have not failed to testify warmly their approval of the manner in which his Excellency has acted under circumstances of exceptional difficulty.

It is somewhat remarkable that the various denominations of Christians represented in these Addresses should have thus spontaneously come forward to express their gratitude towards England as the country which has been most effectual in improving their condition in Turkey, thus showing that they rely rather on the efforts of Her Majesty's Government in their behalf than on any of the other Guaranteeing Powers, whose Representatives are equally about to quit Constantinople, and to whom no similar marks of confidence have been afforded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 105.

Address of Executive Council of Protestant Community.

Constantinople, January 23, 1877.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, the Executive Council of the Protestant Community, having heard that your Excellency is about to quit this capital on leave of absence, have deemed it our duty and happiness to express our sense of heartfelt gratitude for all you have done on behalf of those interests which so deeply affect our civil and religious well-being.

We have learnt to appreciate the kind and cordial manner in which your Excellency has upon all occasions treated our representations, and the attention you have bestowed in listening to the reports which we have presented touching the needs of our people in different parts of the Empire.

We are fully aware that these reports and representations have been many, as indeed they must be in a country where, in spite of the liberal efforts of the Government, religious freedom and the right of private judgment are, on account of the ignorance of the people, not well understood.

Much remains to be done in this direction, but we are gratefully sensible of the progress which has been made during the years your Excellency has occupied the high position you have so honourably filled.

We attribute it largely to your Excellency's interest in our welfare that our nation is obtaining more and more the position which is due to her, and that a right view is at last being taken of our labours in behalf of perfect religious toleration, which is united with profound loyalty to our Sovereign.

We trust that our fellow subjects will learn to exercise that respect for our opinion which we have for theirs.

We beg your Excellency to feel assured that our best wishes for your person and family will follow you during your absence, and we pray Almighty God to have you in His keeping for time and eternity.

(Signed) VEKIL of the PROTESTANT COMMUNITY.
HAGOP MATTEOSIAN.
HAGOPOS DJEDJIZIAN.
STEPAN UTUDJIAN.
G. VARTANIAN, *M.D.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 105.

Address presented by the Armenian Deputation to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

AU moment où vous quittez l'Orient la nation Arménienne se fait un devoir de venir vous exprimer ses profondes sympathies pour la noble personne de votre Excellence.

A cette occasion nous sommes heureux de pouvoir déclarer combien est grand le prix que nous attachons à l'intérêt que la grande nation Anglaise a de tout temps montré à l'égard de l'Empire Ottoman et à la sollicitude que votre Excellence a su témoigner à égal dégré à tous les éléments qui le composent.

Nous ne pouvons prendre congé de votre Excellence sans vous exprimer le regret que nous fait éprouver votre départ comme le vœu que nous faisons de voir revenir votre Excellence reprendre les hautes fonctions qu'elle a remplies depuis nombre d'années avec tant de distinction.

Les Membres de la Députation.
(Follow the signatures.)

Pera, le 25 *Janvier*, 1877.

Inclosure 3 in No. 105.

Address of the Armenian Catholic Patriarch to Sir H. Elliot.

HIER (Mercredi) une députation de Catholiques Arméniens a été reçue à l'Ambassade par Sir Henry Elliot, à qui elle a présenté l'address suivante, écrite au nom de la communauté par Mgr. Hassoun, le Patriarche Catholique Arménien :

Excellence,—C'est au nom de l'Episcopat entier de ma communauté Arménienne Catholique de la Turquie que je me fais un devoir de vous remettre, M. l'Ambassadeur, ma présente respectueuse adresse au moment où votre Excellence va nous quitter pour un délai court, nous l'espérons, pour vous renouveler l'expression de notre profonde et sincère reconnaissance pour cette fermeté et sagesse avec laquelle votre Excellence a bien voulu défendre les principes de justice et les droits de la liberté religieuse méconnus envers notre communauté.

Celle-ci doit principalement aux bons offices de votre Excellence l'adoucissement de ses tribulations, qu'elle a dû endurer sous le régime passé, ainsi que la tournure favorable que la question elle-même a enfin prise vers une solution juste et équitable, grâce aux sages conseils que votre Excellence n'a jamais cessé de donner dans l'intérêt aussi bien du Gouvernement Impérial que d'une population Chrétienne de 100,000 personnes non moins dévouée à son auguste Maître Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan qu'à la foi de ses ancêtres. Les populations Catholiques de l'Empire Ottoman ont, par des faits trop éclatants, démontré en toute occasion leur soumission à l'autorité de leur Souverain, pour qu'il soit besoin de chercher d'autres arguments en faveur de leur fidélité et dévouement.

Ma communauté elle-même, bien qu'exposée aux plus dures épreuves, n'a nullement dévié de la ligne tracée par sa foi et par ses chefs religieux. Ainsi j'aime à espérer, M. l'Ambassadeur, que sous le ministère réparateur et réformateur de son Altesse Midhat Pacha, elle ne tardera pas à être réintégrée dans ses droits légitimes.

Dans tous les cas, le souvenir de sincère reconnaissance envers votre Excellence,

et le digne personnel de votre honorable Ambassade ne sera jamais effacé de nos cœurs.

En nous unissant aussi aux autres populations Chrétiennes de l'Empire, nous nous empressons, M. l'Ambassadeur, de rendre l'hommage dû à la sage politique avec laquelle votre Excellence a su accomplir sa haute mission auprès du Gouvernement Impérial, en lui prodiguant ses conseils aussi sages que désintéressés.

Pénétré de ces sentiments de gratitude et de respect, j'ai l'honneur, &c.,

(Signé) ANTOINE PIERRE IX HASSOUN,
Patriarche Arménien Catholique de Cilicie.

Patriarcat Arménien Catholique, Constantinople,
le 23 Janvier, 1877.

Inclosure 4 in No. 105.

Extract from the "Levant Herald."

THE BRITISH ADDRESS.—A numerous and influential deputation waited upon Sir Henry Elliot at the British Embassy this morning, to present his Excellency with an Address on the occasion of his departure on leave of absence. The following is the text of the Address:—

"To his Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Henry George Elliot, G.C.B., Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Sublime Porte, &c., &c., &c.

"Sir,

"On the occasion of your Excellency's departure on leave of absence, we, the Undersigned, desire to express to your Excellency sentiments which we hold in common.

"We learn with unfeigned sorrow that, in the execution of a most arduous duty, your Excellency's strength has been overtaxed. We sincerely hope that rest and change of scene may restore the health which your Excellency has devotedly sacrificed in the faithful fulfilment of a most responsible trust.

"In the conflict of opinion which late events have called forth, reflections have been made at which we have been pained, and which your Excellency's life and character, as we have known them for ten years, refute and belie.

"Deeply sympathising with your Excellency in the special anxieties and difficulties of recent times, we desire to place on record our conviction and high appreciation of the scrupulous and conscientious uprightness which has throughout marked your Excellency's ministry in this country. At the same time, let us express our respectful recognition of the eminently honourable example for which we are indebted to your Excellency and Lady Elliot, and of which the beneficial influence has been widely felt and appreciated.

"We respectfully conclude our address with our sincerest good wishes for your Excellency and your family."

[Although signed chiefly by members of the British colony in Constantinople, several Greek and other residents also appended their signatures to the Address as a mark of appreciation and esteem for the British Ambassador.]

Mr. Henry Hanson, who read the Address, prefaced it by an expression of the satisfaction which he felt at being permitted to state to his Excellency that the Address was dictated by the unanimous good feeling of the English Colony, and of many members of other nationalities. He added that, at a numerously attended meeting at Hasskeui yesterday evening, it was unanimously decided to present a separate Address of thanks to Sir Henry for the care which he had always taken of the community at Hasskeui, and especially for his exertions during the period of the cholera.

Sir Henry Elliot, in returning thanks, said:—"Gentlemen, I cannot sufficiently thank you for the kind feeling which has prompted the presentation of your most gratifying Address. No man who occupies for a long time an important public position can expect at all times to obtain approval for the whole of his conduct. The utmost he can hope is that he may retain the esteem of those amongst whom he works. Your Address shows me that, notwithstanding any differences of opinion which may exist, or have existed, between me and any of you on public questions, I have yet been able to retain your esteem and good-will, and it is my reward for much labour in the face of many difficulties. The past year has been one of much anxiety and trial. On the last occasion on which you waited upon me in any number, much anxiety and apprehension were manifested, and though I thought, and still think, that the danger was greatly exaggerated, I must now confess that I was myself under a sense of heavy responsibility. I felt that the community over whose interests I was bound to watch might be placed in peril, and that I had very inadequate means with which to protect them. However, that danger has entirely passed away, and there is now such a feeling between the Mahommedans and the Christians as, in my opinion, is unprecedented in the history of this Empire. I trust that, when I see you again in a few months, I shall find a great improvement in the condition of the country, and yourselves in the enjoyment of greater prosperity than you at present possess."

No. 106.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 82.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 28, 1877.

I CALLED upon the Grand Vizier yesterday afternoon, when His Highness informed me that he had, on the 25th instant, sent a telegram, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, conceived in friendly terms, to the Princes of Montenegro and Servia, proposing to their Highnesses to negotiate directly with the Imperial Government for the speedy conclusion of peace.

Upon my inquiry upon what conditions he was prepared to treat, he replied, that with Servia he would adopt the basis of the *status quo ante bellum*, but he declined answering any question as to Montenegro.

He felt, however, especially anxious for the success of his overtures to Servia, as, should the expiration of the armistice find the Sultan and the Prince Milan still at war, circumstances might compel the Turkish forces to enter the Principality, and they might even advance to Belgrade without, in all probability, encountering serious opposition.

Conditions of peace dictated in the capital would necessarily be less favourable to Servia than those now demanded, and it would be difficult to restrain the Turkish population from insisting upon these being required.

The complications to which a renewal of hostilities would give rise, and the opposition which it would doubtless encounter from the Powers, were manifestly an object of dread to his Highness, and he did not conceal how desirous he was of the timely assistance of Her Majesty's Government in urging upon the Prince the responsibility he would incur in the eyes of Europe by rejecting these friendly overtures.

His Highness added that the Agents whom the Porte had sent to Servia and Montenegro to negotiate an exchange of prisoners and the revictualling of Nichsich would be authorized to enter fully into the question of the terms of peace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 106.

The Grand Vizier to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 25 Janvier*, 1877.

VOTRE Altesse voudra bien se rappeler que c'est à sa demande que les Puissances ont interposé leurs bons offices près de la Sublime Porte pour amener un armistice et que le Gouvernement Impérial toujours animé des mêmes sentiments de modération et de conciliation, n'a pas hésité à accorder cet armistice, qui a été depuis lors deux fois renouvelé dans l'espoir de faciliter ainsi la conclusion de la paix et d'éviter une effusion de sang inutile.

Le moment n'est pas loin où par suite de l'expiration du dernier armistice les hostilités devront être reprises au grand dommage des contrées qui vont en être le théâtre.

Je me demande si un effort loyal et sincère ne devrait pas être fait de part et d'autre pour écarter cette douloureuse éventualité.

Dans cette pensée toute de raison et d'humanité, et d'ailleurs convaincu que votre Altesse professe au même degré l'amour de la paix et le désir de mettre fin à une lutte aussi regrettable et aussi désastreuse, je viens franchement à elle pour la convier personnellement à une entente avec le Gouvernement Impérial au moyen de négociations directes.

No. 107.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 84.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 28, 1877.

I INQUIRED of the Grand Vizier yesterday when he intended putting his proposed reforms into execution.

His Highness replied that he had already provided for those which referred to the division and organization of the "cantonal" districts, and was now engaged upon the selection of the Mudirs and Mayors to be appointed to them, as was suggested by the proposals of the Conference, and he expected that this would be completed within ten days.

He said he intended forming a new vilayet in the centre of the disturbed provinces, each of which, besides that of Salonica, would contribute a district towards it.

I am unable as yet to give the boundary line proposed, but it will include the towns of Nisch, Novi-Bazar, Kossova, Pristina, and Uskub, the eastern frontier passing near Sofia.

The seat of Government will be at Pristina, although the vilayet would be called Kossova, and it is to be administered either by Said Pasha, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of Cyprus, or by Kiamil Pasha, lately employed in Syria, both of whom bear a high character for intelligence and activity, and are said to be conversant with European languages.

The Porte intends also forming a new vilayet by adding to the present district of Constantinople that of Ismid and of the Dardanelles.

The government of the Archipelago, hitherto conducted from the Dardanelles, will be removed to Rhodes, and a Christian Governor-General—Savas Pasha—will, I believe, be appointed.

The Herzegovina will be, as formerly, included in the Government of Bosnia, and Constant Effendi—a Christian—is to be named Mustechar, or Councillor to the Governor-General.

His Highness has evidently no intention of appointing Christian Governors to the provinces, alleging his inability to find suitable men for the posts; but he is determined that all the Mustechars, who bear a higher rank than that of Mouavin, hitherto held by the sub-Governors, shall be Christians.

In short, he said, that he was fully alive to the importance of proving the sincerity of his intentions, but complained that the work upon which he was engaged had to be carried on by his unaided efforts, and in spite of determined opposition from many quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 108.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 85.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 20, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a translation of the Imperial Iradé, which has just appeared, providing for the admission of the children of Christian parents into the Turkish military schools.

It was felt by the Grand Vizier that the enrolment of Christians in the army would be extremely difficult to carry out at present, and the first step has thus been taken towards it by the promulgation of the present edict.

It is, I believe, generally approved of as an earnest that His Majesty the Sultan

is sincere in his wish not to allow fanatical prejudices to stand in the way of the proposed reforms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of January 29, 1877.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.—ADMISSION OF CHRISTIANS TO THE MILITARY SCHOOLS.—We have received the following communication, marked "Official," from the "Bureau de la Presse," under date of the 27th instant (Saturday last):—"In conformity with the provisions of Article XVII of the Constitution, which establishes the equality of all Ottomans before the law, and which prescribes for all the same rights and duties towards the country, an Iradé of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan ordains that from henceforth the children of non-Mussulmans will be admissible into all the military schools. Consequently, all those who wish to enter the said schools must demand the necessary permission from the Minister of War, according to the regulations established for the admission of students."

No. 109.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 86.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 29, 1877.

IT had been the intention of General Ignatiew to quit Constantinople on the 22nd instant, and the Russian Imperial yacht "Eraclea" had been sent to convey him to Odessa with his family.

Owing, however, to the very boisterous weather which prevailed in the Black Sea during the whole of last week, his Excellency was compelled to postpone his departure until the morning of the 27th, when he left for Athens, intending, I believe, after a few days stay to continue his journey to Trieste.

Baron Calice and the Austrian and German Ambassadors followed his Excellency in the mail steamer of the same day for Trieste direct, Count de Bourgoing leaving in the French corvette "Chateau Renaud," while Count Chaudordy has delayed his journey until this morning, proceeding to Varna by the Embassy stationnaire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 110.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 87.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 30, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two further reports from Mr. Baring on the proceedings of the Commission.

Postal communication with Philippopoli has been interrupted for some days, but Mr. Baring informed me by telegraph on the 28th instant that Metto Bektash had been condemned to death; Fetka to eight years hard labour; and that the trial of Tossoun Bey was to commence immediately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopolis, January 19, 1877.

Sir,

I INFORMED your Excellency in my despatch of the 17th instant that the case of Metto Bektash had been postponed for the collection of fresh evidence.

Several women from Batak have now been examined, the most important witness being Mitra, the wife of Atanas. She gave a clearer and more consecutive account of what had taken place after the villagers took refuge in the church than any other witness who has as yet given evidence before the Commission; and I, therefore, think it may be desirable to lay the substance of her evidence before your Excellency.

The Bashi-Bazouks, as your Excellency is aware, arrived before Batak on a Friday. On the Saturday the people took refuge in the church, and on the Sunday morning the arms were surrendered, as described in my despatch of the 26th ultimo.

Mitra deposed that very soon after the arms had been given up the Bashi-Bazouks surrounded the church, and summoned the people to open the door. The demand was not complied with, and they then made holes in the wall which surrounds the churchyard, and fired on the people. In the evening they succeeded in getting over the wall, and massacred everybody in the churchyard.

About two hours after this they begun to fire through the windows on the people who were crowded inside the church, and continued doing so all night long.

On the Monday morning they made an attempt to force their way into the building, upon which the survivors inside begged for mercy with tears and lamentations. The Bashi-Bazouks replied that those who consented to become Mussulmans would be spared, and about daybreak the people were all taken out.

The witness positively stated that not a single man, either in the church or in the churchyard, was armed.

The Bashi-Bazouks then took the survivors to an open space near the church, and then separated all the boys and girls from thirteen to fifteen from the rest. They took two children of the witness, who said that in all some 300 were carried off. The greater part of these had been recovered, but still some were still missing.

Achmet Aga then arrived on horseback, and, after having ridden round the group of survivors, left for the outskirts of the village, after giving some orders to the Bashi-Basaouks, which the witness did not catch.

As soon as he had departed the Bashi-Bazouks led the men away one by one, and murdered them in the hollow close by the school.

When they stopped this butchery, only about 200 men and between 400 and 500 women remained alive, who were taken to a place called the Beylik Harman just outside the village, where they spent the night.

On the following morning (Tuesday) a Bashi-Bazouk went to the people, and told them they were to have their names registered, adding, "You are now going to be our Rajahs." The men were then separated from the women and led away towards the village, firing soon being heard in the direction they had taken.

Shortly after the Bashi-Bazouks returned, bringing with them the clothes of the murdered men; and among them was a man with a sword in his hand, who ordered the women to show him the place where their money was hidden, saying, "This sword has just cut off 180 heads." This man was Metto Bektash, and the witness, on being confronted with him, recognized him.

Some of the women who were known to be rich were then taken into the village, and those who were fortunate enough to be able to show where money was concealed were set free, but one old woman being unable to do so, was murdered.

The next morning, Wednesday, the witness, and about sixty other women, went to Rakitovo with Kutchuk Khalib, the man who has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment, as mentioned in my despatch of the 17th instant, and some little time after returned to Batak. The witness had heard that about ninety women who stayed behind when she and others went to Rakitovo were murdered by gipsies.

She had lost her husband, two children, aged respectively three and one, her father, and her father and mother-in-law.

When asked whether she knew Metto Bektash, and whether she had seen him at Batak, she replied that she did know him, and had seen him killing people in the churchyard on Sunday, and that he had also taken a leading part in the massacre outside the church on Monday. He had carried off two girls, named Katerina and Nanka, who had now returned to Batak.

This witness's evidence was corroborated by Hatee, the wife of Nicola, who added that when Metto Behtash came to the "Beylik Harman" his clothes were spotted with blood. He addressed the women who were assembled there, and, making use of a filthy expression, said he had killed 100 men.

The father and husband of this witness were killed, the latter having been taken away by Achmet Aga, who said he wanted him.

This woman recognized Metto Bektash from among six other men. Another witness was Vano, the wife of (name illegible); she had been among the people who took refuge in the church, and had been shot through the arm. She had been taken to Rakitovo by a certain Banko Hasfar on the Wednesday. She said there was a tall man named Metto, who had an impediment in his speech, and who was the "Bash Kasjab," or head butcher during the massacre. While at Rakitovo, Banko Hassan made the witnesses carry some things to Metto's house, and she there heard the latter say that among the men separated from the women at Beglih Harman on Tuesday was one Torko Oghlou Velo, whom he, Metto, murdered after he had shown him where his copper cooking utensils were hidden. This man Velo was the witness' husband.

She also stated that Metto had taken a Bulgarian and his wife to Rakitovo and had made them Moslems, the man receiving the name of Khahib.

On the 11th instant the case was discussed by the Commission, and the President asked Perteveff whether he then thought the evidence was sufficient. The latter replied in the negative, declaring that the examinations had not been properly conducted, and that there were discrepancies in the depositions. He, therefore, proposed to call Banko Hassan and Khalib the pervert.

The President said that though there might be some slight discrepancies in the details, the witnesses all agreed about the main facts of the case. To call Banko Hassan and Khalib would be a useless waste of time, as neither of them would be likely to give evidence against the prisoners.

Salim Effendi also said that there were contradictions in the evidence, as Todor, the son of the priest, had deposed that Achmet Agha had endeavoured to stop the slaughter outside the church, while the last witnesses had stated that it had begun subsequently to an order from him.

Both the President and Thiades Effendi said that there was really no discrepancy in these statements, as there was no reason why Achmet Aga should not have gone several times to the same place, and, moreover, this question had nothing to do with the case of Metto.

Pester Effendi then asked whether Metto's house had been searched for a yataghan stained with blood. The President very properly qualified this request as ridiculous.

As, however, Pester and Salim Effendi still insisted that the evidence was insufficient, it was eventually decided to summon other witnesses.

It is difficult to imagine what evidence these two members can require to convince them of Metto's guilt. The proofs already in hand are as plain as anything can be, and only those who have made up their minds not to be convinced at any price can have the audacity to express any doubt about the culpability of this monster in human shape. Were everyone who perished by Metto's hand to rise from the dead and tell his story, I have no doubt that both Perter and Salim Effendi would still declare that the evidence was insufficient to convict the murderer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, January 19, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 14th instant, I have the honour to lay before your Excellency an account of the discussions which took place respecting the case of Alish Pehlivan.

The first deposition read was that of the Greek Kutchuk Giorgi, who had stated that Alish had stayed with him all Sunday night in a hut outside Batak, and that on Monday morning he had gone to the place where the Bashi-Bazouks had piled up the property stolen from the village. The prisoner had then taken the witness into the

village to show him the place where his money was buried, but owing to the heat of the stones of the still smouldering houses they were unable to dig it up.

Anton, another Greek witness, had seen Alish standing near the heap of things taken from the houses.

Atanas Oghlon Dimitri had deposed that he had seen Alish with Ahmed Agha and others, and that he had heard him order his men to fire on the people in the church on the Sunday night.

Ahmed Agha had stated in one of his depositions that Alish was one of the leaders of Bashi-Bazouks, but on a subsequent occasion he totally denied ever having said so.

Yovantcho Effendi's opinion was first asked, and he replied that he had no doubt that Alish Pehlism was the leader of the Bashi-Bazouks of Bania, and that this fact was borne out by the weight of evidence.

Salim Effendi and Pertew Effendi held that the evidence of Atanas Oghlou Dimitri was contradicted by that of Giorgi, who had stated that Alish was in the hut all Sunday night; he could therefore have taken no part in the massacre and pillage in the church.

Ikiades Effendi maintained that all the evidence tended to prove Alish's leadership. He had himself said that while he was watching the ammunition he now and again went to direct the movements of his men.

Pertew Effendi observed, that though Alish was one of the leading men of his district, he could not be held responsible for having led the men of Bania to Batak, as they had merely gone there with a laudable object, viz., to suppress a dangerous insurrection; he should therefore only be held responsible for his individual acts.

Abro Effendi said it was of no use attempting to judge the prisoner as a leader until it was known whether he and his band had committed any criminal acts, but Ikiades Effendi dissented from this view.

Salim Effendi observed that Alish had been ordered by Ahmed Agha to collect his band of Bashi-Bazouks, and that none of the witnesses had spoken to his having been present when the Tchorbadjis were massacred. It would not be proved that after he arrived at Batak he had given orders to his men, and that therefore it was necessary to determine whether he had instigated them to commit crimes.

The President observed that Alish has saved the lives of Giorgi, Andon, and others.

Pertew Effendi said that the 56th and 57th Articles of the Code were not applicable to the present case, and that though the prisoners had admitted that the men of Bania had taken cattle and other property, it was necessary to prove that they had been actually acting under his orders before holding him responsible for it.

Ikiades Effendi observed that the Commission was deviating from the course it had followed while judging the cases of the other prisoners. Ahmed Agha and Ahmed Tchaousch had been judged as leaders, and the individual acts of Metto Bektash had only been considered after it had been decided that he had not been a leader.

The President immediately said that the course pursued with regard to the two latter was open to objection, but Ikiades Effendi replied that it was a strange proceeding for a Court of Justice to censure its own acts.

Several proposals in the form of questions were then submitted to the Commission, but it will not be necessary for me to repeat them here.

The discussions which ensued were long, and were carried on with some warmth, Abro Effendi maintaining the prisoner's complete innocence, and indeed justifying him as a sort of public benefactor for having saved some Bulgarian villages in his district, while Ikiades Effendi declared that he should be condemned to death under Article 57 of the Code, adding, however, that the punishment might be commuted to fifteen years' hard labour, on the ground that the presence of Ahmed Agha, who was a Government officer, might be held to lessen the responsibility of the other leaders.

The President Salim Effendi and Yovantcho Effendi held that the prisoner should be convicted of pillage only under Article 252 of the Code, and sentenced to hard labour.

Pertew Effendi agreed with the above-mentioned members, and the nature of the punishment having been settled, its duration was then taken into consideration.

The President thought three years would be sufficient; but eventually the majority decided that Alish Pehlivan should be sentenced to four years' hard labour and a fine of 1*l.* Turkish.

I cannot consider that this sentence is a particularly satisfactory one, as the punishment is either not severe enough, or else it is excessive.

In the "Mazbata," which has now been drawn up for communication to the Porte, stress is laid on the fact of Alish not having informed the authorities that the Bashi-Bazouks of Bania had committed acts of pillage, but I do not expect that this will be considered sufficient to convict him, and I should not be at all surprised if the sentence were quashed.

The moment the majority of the Commission thought fit to spare the life of such a criminal as Ahmed Tchaousch, of Kara Boulak, I never expected that a very severe sentence would be passed on Alish; but I maintain that he should have been punished as a leader, and not merely as a simple Bashi-Bazouk.

In my telegram of the 5th instant I informed your Excellency what would probably be the result of the discussions about this case, and my opinion has now turned out to be pretty correct.

After disposing of the case of Alish, the Commission sentenced a man named Ahmed Tchaousch, of Dorkovo, to three months' imprisonment, under Article 224 of the Code, for having stolen two goats from Batak, and Hafiz Effendi, of Rahitovo, was acquitted, it having been proved that he was not present during the massacre.

Before any of the sentences can be carried out they must be officially communicated to the Porte; the "Mazbata," as I have stated above, has been prepared, and I trust it will be sent to Constantinople in a day or two.

There will then remain the cases of Metto Bektash, Alish Mehmet, of Nevrokop, and Fettah, of Firgovo. The latter is the man I mentioned to your Excellency in my despatch of the 15th ultimo as having escaped after his arrest. He has now been recaptured, and has been examined, though his case is not very far advanced. It will not be possible to convict him on the charge of participation in the massacre, as Sofia, the witness who made mention of his name, cannot now recognize him; but a charge of horse-stealing will very probably be brought home to him.

Ikiades Effendi has been in Constantinople for the last week, but is expected back on the 22nd or 23rd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 111.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 91.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 31, 1877.*

THE Porte has received a telegram from Ali Pasha, Governor-General of Herzegovina, which has caused them much uneasiness, and of which I have the honour to inclose the substance, as communicated to me by the Grand Vizier.

His Highness evidently feels that the promises hitherto made by the Austrian Government to maintain a strict neutrality in Dalmatia have not been loyally carried out, and are not calculated to inspire him with confidence in any assurances that may now be given, especially as long as General Rodick is maintained as Governor of the Province.

Consequently the military preparations which Ali Pasha reports to be in progress in his neighbourhood are viewed with extreme suspicion, and the appearance of bands of insurgents coming from the Dalmatian frontier is looked upon as an attempt to involve the Herzegovina in a fresh insurrection, calculated to provoke eventually an active intervention on the part of Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 111.

Ali Pasha to Safvet Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Mostar, le 27 Janvier, 1877.*

LA nouvelle reçue de Raguse que j'ai déjà communiquée à l'effet que l'Autriche envoyait, entre autres préparatifs, un renfort de 20,000 hommes en Dalmatie se confirme.

Il me revient aussi que les émigrés rentrés en Herzégovine depuis plusieurs mois

sont en butte à des instigations de la part des autorités frontières Autrichiennes. Le but qu'on se propose est de faire abandonner de nouveau à nos habitants leurs foyers en Herzégovine en promettant à leur retour en Autriche des rations abondantes.

Mussich, le prêtre, qui a été élargi contre toute attente, se trouve sur le territoire Autrichien aux environs de Lipmanchko en train de former une bande.

Il y a à Cattaro débarquement continuel de céréales pour le Monténégro de la part des bateaux Russes.

Il me revient aussi de plusieurs points du vilayet que depuis deux jours des insurgés ont fait leur apparition. Ils ont attaqué 80 personnes dans le défilé de la Dougа qui revenaient de Nichsich. Il y a eu un engagement qui dura une heure dont le résultat n'est pas encore connu.

No. 112.

Mr. Corbett to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Berne, February 6, 1877.*

THE Turkish Ambassador at Paris a few days ago expressed to the Swiss Minister there the desire of the Porte to take into its service a certain number of Swiss officers, to be charged with the organization of a body of gendarmerie.

Dr. Kern told the Ambassador, in answer, that it was contrary to the Swiss Constitution to allow any of their citizens to be employed in a foreign service, and that, consequently, the Federal Government would certainly not entertain any such proposal as that mentioned.

Sadyk Pasha was not satisfied with the answer which he received, and, apparently acting under instructions from his Government, pressed Dr. Kern to consult the Federal Government as to the possibility of the employment of Swiss officers in Turkey; and on the latter bringing the matter before his Government, he was informed by the President that the answer he had made to the Turkish proposal was entirely approved, and such a scheme could not be entertained.

I am further informed that Dr. Kern has also reported to the Swiss Government that the Government of the Porte has applied to the French Government to be allowed to take into their service some French officers of gendarmerie, and also some civilians, to organize and regulate the financial affairs of Turkey, but that both these requests had been refused, on the ground that the French Government were anxious to do nothing which might have the appearance of a departure from the understanding come to by the Representatives of the Great Powers at the recent Conference at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 113.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February 9.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 7 Février, 1877.*

MON télégramme d'hier vous a fait connaître les raisons qui ont nécessité le changement dans la personne du Grand Vizir. Je ne saurais trop insister sur le caractère exclusivement personnel de cette mesure. Différentes circonstances avaient contribué à détruire la confiance de Sa Majesté en son Premier Ministre. L'attitude de certaines personnes qui trouvaient malheureusement un accès trop facile près de Midhat Pacha, avait fini par créer de graves préoccupations pour le maintien de l'ordre public. Aussi n'y aurait-il pas de plus grande erreur que de chercher à attribuer à d'autres motifs la disgrâce dont Midhat Pacha a été frappé. Nos adversaires essaieront naturellement de faire considérer cette mesure comme un coup porté à la Constitution. A cette insinuation on ne saurait mieux répondre qu'en relevant les dispositions du Hatt Impérial qui proclame la nécessité de procéder sans retard à l'application de la Constitution, et qui prescrit de s'occuper immédiatement d'organiser les communes, de fixer les limites de la décentralisation provinciale et d'entourer de toutes les garanties désirables le choix des Caïmacams et des Mutessarifs. La création d'un Ministère de l'Intérieur sous la direction de Djevded Pacha est destinée à faciliter la réalisation de ces dispositions. Ce même Hatt désigne le Président de la Chambre dont la réunion est fixée à un terme très rapproché, nomme un Chrétien au Ministère du Commerce et appelle deux autres

Chrétiens, bien connus pour leur capacité et leurs lumières, aux fonctions importantes de Conseillers du Ministère de l'Intérieur et du Ministère de l'Instruction Publique.

Votre Excellence trouvera dans ce qui précède des argumentations plus que suffisantes pour combattre, par les faits les moins contestables, les assertions de ceux qui, après avoir décrié le plus qu'ils pouvaient notre Constitution comme inopportune, ne manqueront pas de chercher maintenant à soulever l'opinion publique en s'écriant que la Constitution a été violée, ou que Sa Majesté n'est pas disposée à en tenir compte. L'éloignement de Midhat Pacha est conforme aux dispositions de l'Article 113 de la Constitution; et, quant aux intentions de Sa Majesté, elles sont suffisamment établies par le Hatt dont je vous ai donné plus haut une idée sommaire, et que je me ferai un devoir de vous envoyer *in extenso* par le prochain courrier.

No. 114.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No 32. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 9, 1877.*

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and expressed to me a strong personal opinion to the effect that no time should be lost in endeavouring to ascertain the views of Edhem Pasha on the subject of the reforms proposed by the Conference, which Count Schouvaloff thought it possible the Porte might now be willing to adopt, when it could do so without the appearance of acting under pressure. He believed that if it were in the power of Her Majesty's Government to induce the Porte to take this course, the danger of war would be greatly diminished.

I promised his Excellency that this suggestion should be considered.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 115.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 19. Decypher.)
My Lord, *Tiflis, January 30, 1877.*

GRAND DUKE goes to Poti to inspect works, and from thence to Kisheneff. I am told that twenty mortars and two 9-pound guns are placed on island of Bout near Poti; this is flanked by a redoubt with four Krupp's 4-pound guns on head of land to south-west of lighthouse. Little to west of this latter is another battery with two Krupp's 9-pound guns and thirty mortars fronting anchorage in bay. A line of entrenchments for infantry lies to north-west of lighthouse near new harbour. Former report was from Vice Consul. This is from another source: I will try to verify it.

Fortifications at Poti are nearly finished; 150 torpedoes are placed from north to south between 28 feet water and 16 feet, about 5,000 yards from mouth of river. Numerous bridges have been made for passage of river between Poti and Orpiri, Ozurjet, Orpiri, and Kutais had been entrenched.

The following is the last information which I have received relative to the disposition of Russian forces at and near Alexandropol:—30,000 infantry, 4,200 cavalry, 16 batteries, and 500 militia; Erievan, 10,000 infantry, 5,800 cavalry, 4 batteries, Akhalkaluki; 6,000 infantry, 1,200 at and near Akhalzik; 20,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalry, and 5 batteries, Ozurjet; 800 infantry, 500 cavalry, 1 battery, and 2,000 militia at Orpiri; 400 gunners and 30 guns in position at and near Nicholaga; 3,300 infantry, 500 cavalry, Poti; 840 infantry, 30 cavalry, and 800 gunners, Kutais; 10,080 infantry, 4 batteries, and 4,000 militia, Tiflis, including 3 local battalions; 9,480 infantry, 300 cavalry, 5 batteries, and 1 000 militia, Soukoum Kalé; 2,500 infantry, 500 cavalry, 2 batteries, and 1,500 militia, Anapa and Novorosinsk; 2,500 infantry at Michaeloff; near Suraw, 32 guns; total 95,720 infantry, 12,030 cavalry, 37 batteries, 1,200 gunners for works, and 9,000 Militia: the latter being of little account. It will be observed that a force is concentrating at Kutais and Akhalzik: this latter threatens Batum and Erzeroum. Some militia are being sent to Daghistan. Total force in that district from 16,000 to 18,000 men. Much snow fallen; roads bad; the marching of an army next to impossible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 116.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 99.)
My Lord, *Paris, February* 9, 1877.

THE Duc Decazes asked me this morning whether Her Majesty's Government had yet answered the Russian Circular of last month relative to the break-up of the Conference.

I replied that I had no reason to think that Her Majesty's Government had as yet sent an answer to that communication.

The Duke said that neither had the French Government yet answered it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 117.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

(No. 100. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, February* 9, 1877.

IN my despatches Nos. 825 and 879, Very Confidential, of the 2nd and 16th of October last, I mentioned to your Lordship suggestions made by the Duc Decazes respecting the restoration to Russia of the part of Bessarabia of which she was deprived by the Treaty of 1856.

In a conversation which I had with the Duke this morning he reverted to the subject, and spoke upon it at more length than he had done on the previous occasions.

It had, he said, been remarked some time ago that, for Russia, war meant bankruptcy, but peace meant bankruptcy and revolution. Now, without going so far as this, the Duke thought that it was clear that the danger of war between Russia and Turkey lay, not in the policy or the wishes of the Emperor of Russia or his Government, but in the difficulty they experienced in allaying the excitement of the people at large. It was, in fact, impossible for them to maintain peace without provoking troubles at home, unless they could give some satisfaction to the public feeling.

He had not, he went on to say, thought it prudent to allude to the subject in very recent communications with Russia, because it would be difficult at this moment to discuss it theoretically. He had, however, still reason to think that the cession of this territory was the sore point both with the Emperor and the statesmen who surrounded him. If so, would not peace be cheaply purchased by applying a salve to this wound? It seemed to him to be a matter of indifference to the Great Powers of Europe whether the territory in question belonged to Russia or Roumania. Of course the arrangements made by the Treaty of Paris respecting the navigation of the Danube must be strictly maintained, and the restoration of the territory must be so managed as not to give Russia the command of the Sulina mouth of that river. Thus no injury would be inflicted on German or Austrian interests, while there was reason to believe that Turkey would view with equanimity the transfer of this territory, in which she had no direct interest, from Roumania to Russia.

I asked the Duke of Decazes what reason he had to suppose that such a settlement of the Eastern question would satisfy not only the Emperor of Russia, but the Russian people at large. What was to become of the tender concern for their Christian brethren in Turkey, which was supposed to be the cause of the excitement among the Russians?

The Duke replied that he had strong reasons for thinking that the recovery of the territory would be an immense gratification to Russian pride. He imagined that this would be particularly the case with the army, which deplored the loss of the trophies of old military successes which existed in the ceded part of Bessarabia. As for the sympathy with the Christians in Turkey, satisfaction might no doubt be given to public opinion on that point by a phrase.

The Duc Decazes proceeded to tell me that Prince Bismarck had already declared to Russia that he saw no objection to her resuming possession of the ceded part of Bessarabia, and had in fact incited her to do so. Might not England, having come to an understanding with Austria on the subject, give Russia to understand that no objection would be made? It was hardly a matter which could be treated in writing, or even quite explicitly in conversation, but a hint might be given which would no doubt be readily taken.

I asked whether, if Russia wanted the territory, it would not be more natural that the hint should come from her.

The Duke replied that this would not do at all; that if the overture came from Russia and was repulsed, it would make her relations with England and other Powers worse than they were before.

The Duke really seemed to think that by this concession to Russia the whole Eastern question might be set at rest for a time.

I asked him whether anything had passed on the subject between the French Plenipotentiaries and General Ignatiew at Constantinople.

The Duke answered that some years ago General Ignatiew had said that of the two wounds inflicted by the Treaty of Paris, the one which rankled most was not the exclusion of Russian men-of-war from the Black Sea, but the cession of territory.

The Comte de Chaudordy had, in confidential conversation with General Ignatiew at Constantinople, approached the subject cautiously, but the General had maintained an absolute silence upon it. This silence did not, however, the Duke said, alter his own opinion that so far as Russia was concerned, the restoration of her lost territory to her would go far to effect a solution of the Eastern question. The Duke concluded by begging me to think over what he had said.

He no doubt felt that the suggestion he made would be agreeable to Russia; how far he may, or may not, have been actually prompted by Russia to make it, I cannot undertake to determine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 118.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.

(No. 101. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, February* 9, 1877.

I ASKED the Duc Decazes this morning whether he shared in the alarm which appeared to be felt very generally at Paris on account of the tone recently adopted with regard to France by German newspapers, which were supposed to be under the influence of Prince Bismarck.

The Duke said that Prince Bismarck had certainly shown of late some irritation against France, and that his Highness had undoubtedly been annoyed by the cordiality which had subsisted between the Comte de Chaudordy and General Ignatiew at the Conference. For his own part, however, he looked upon the articles in the German newspapers rather as simple ebullitions of ill humour than as indications of any deliberate intention to pick a quarrel with France.

He had indeed (he told me) been informed that when two years of the German demonstrations of displeasure against France had led to the intervention of Russia and England at Berlin, Prince Bismarck had declared that he had fallen into a mistake which he should take care to avoid in future. If he should again have reason to be dissatisfied with France, he should, he had affirmed, act promptly and without showing previously any public signs of displeasure, to warn other Powers and lead them to interfere.

The Duke went on to say, that believing that Prince Bismarck would in fact act upon this principle, he was not very much disturbed by the newspaper articles.

I answered, that however this might be, and however little I was disposed to attach any exaggerated importance to the symptoms which had so much frightened the public, I did think that the present was a moment in which prudence and caution were particularly requisite. I reminded the Duke that in the present conjuncture Russia was hardly in a position to exercise the same preponderating influence at Berlin which she had used to such good effect in 1875.

The Duke expressed his entire concurrence in what I said.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 119.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

Vienna, February 9, 1877, 11·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
MONSON sends the subjoined telegram to your Lordship :—

(Confidential.)
"It seems that the Porte desires to discuss certain proposals made by Montenegro in June 1875, respecting the commercial relations of the Principality with Turkey. These proposals were drafted by the Russian Agent, and the draft is supposed to be at the Russian Consulate at Ragusa.

"His Highness is so annoyed that he has given strict orders to keep this a secret from the foreign Agents.

"The Prince's cousin, M. Petrovic, President of the Senate, will be sent to negotiate."

No. 120.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10, 1·30 P.M.)

Constantinople, February 10, 1877, 9 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram of the 6th instant, outrage at Bouloustrou was committed on 29th of December by Albanian brigands. They attacked the house of Panagouti, wounded him, and murdered his wife and son.

Chief of Salonica police made number of arrests, and I am assured that this outrage is not connected with any local political or religious movement.

No. 121.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

Vienna, February 10, 1877, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I UNDERSTAND that the four points which the Porte proposes to discuss with Montenegro refer to the navigation of the Boyana and to means of communicating between Prince of Montenegro and the Governors of the adjacent provinces for settlement of frontier and difficulties.

No. 122.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 10.)

Vienna, February 10, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to Mr. Monson's telegram of yesterday, he has explained to me that he thought that any negotiations for peace will be conducted by the Prince of Montenegro's cousin. His Highness still urges that the negotiations should take place at Vienna.

No. 123.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 11.)

(No. 36.)
Rome, February 8, 1877.

My Lord,
IN a conversation I had yesterday with Signor Melegari, his Excellency informed me that the circular of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs had been communicated to him by the Turkish Minister here, and that he considered it unobjectionable both in tone and substance.

His Excellency also said that he thought the bases for peace proposed by Turkey to Servia very fair,—such, indeed, as Servia, having regard to her own interests only, could hardly fail to accept.

He believed that the condition as to the Turkish flag being hoisted with the Servian, and that of a Turkish Diplomatic Agent residing at Belgrade, would not be seriously

pressed. At all events he had told the Turkish Minister that he advised his Government not to do so, as they were quite immaterial points, and, even if they were agreed to, might possibly be the cause of future dissent and trouble.

The Circular of Prince Gortchakow had not, when I saw Signor Melegari yesterday, yet been communicated to his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 124.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 11.)

Pera, February 10, 1877, *midnight.*

(Telegraphic.)
PORTE replied last night to Prince of Montenegro explaining the meaning of the points reserved for discussion, as mentioned in my telegram of the 6th instant, and in Sir H. Elliot's despatch No. 399 of July 28, 1875.

The Prince in his query to the Porte had appeared to imagine that the points proposed by the Conference were alluded to. His question is therefore regarded here as disingenuous, and his attitude as open to suspicion.

Negotiations at Vienna are objected to by the Porte, as likely to be hampered by foreign interference.

No. 125.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 11.)

Vienna, February 11, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
FOLLOWING is from Monson dated to-day :—

"In answer to telegram from Grand Vizier explaining that the Porte desires that the proposals made by the Prince on the 3rd July, 1875, respecting a *modus vivendi*, should form part of the basis of negotiation, His Highness telegraphed yesterday afternoon his assent, again urging the expediency of negotiating at Vienna. The Prince is absent, and we have only now been informed of this by his secretary."

No. 126.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, February 11, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
ENDEAVOUR to ascertain the views of Edhem Pasha on the subject of the reforms proposed by the Conference, and whether the Porte would now be willing to adopt them when it can do so without the appearance of acting under pressure. I have already strongly advised Musurus Pasha in this sense.

I have reason to believe that if the Porte could be induced to take this course the danger of war would be greatly diminished.

No. 127.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 72.)
Foreign Office, February 11, 1877.

Sir,
I HAVE this day instructed you by telegraph to endeavour to ascertain the views of the new Grand Vizier on the reforms proposed by the Powers in Conference.

It seems possible that the Porte may now be willing to adopt those proposals, or the more material parts of them at least, when it can do so without the appearance of acting under foreign pressure.

I have already requested Musurus Pasha to represent strongly to his Government the advantage of such a course, and from a conversation, though merely of a personal character, which I have lately had with the Russian Ambassador here, I have reason

to believe that if the Porte can be induced to take it, the danger of war would be greatly diminished.

I should wish you to use what influence you can bring to bear on the Turkish Ministers in the same sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 128.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, January 29, 1877.*

I INFORMED your Lordship in my telegram of yesterday that Prince Milan had sent spontaneously a favourable reply to the Grand Vizier's overtures for negotiating terms of peace.

M. Ristitch, the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs, positively assured me that such was the case.

I have, however, since ascertained that M. Kartzoff, my Russian colleague, attended the Council of Ministers on receipt of the Grand Vizier's communication, and that, before sending a reply, it was considered prudent that Russia should be consulted on the subject, which for obvious reasons they wish to keep secret.

They feared that, had they not adopted this course, in the event of the negotiations proving a failure, the whole responsibility would have been thrown on their own shoulders, as Russia would then have been justified in leaving Servia to get out of her difficulties as she best could.

On my expressing to M. Ristitch the satisfaction I had in being able to convey their decision to your Lordship, he offered me a copy of His Highness' reply, which I herewith inclose, and expressed a wish that Her Majesty's Government would use their good offices with the Porte in order that the latter might not drive too hard a bargain ("pas trop marchander").

I have been here so short a time that I can scarcely form an opinion of public feeling, but from what I can gather it appears to me that they would accept peace at almost any price.

The consequences of the war are now being severely felt by all classes. I may here mention, as showing the shattered state of their finances, that the Ministers, who in ordinary times draw the highest salaries, now only receive 120 fr. a-month.

Three days ago a batch of ninety Turkish prisoners, which I believe was all they had remaining, left here to be exchanged at Deligrad.

The Servian prisoners in Turkey amount to about the same number.

Of Russian volunteers, the few that are left will start shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 128.

The Prince of Servia to the Grand Vizier.

Belgrade, le 27 Janvier, 1877.

J'AI reçu le télégramme par lequel votre Altesse m'a fait l'honneur de m'inviter à une entente directe avec le Gouvernement Impérial. Appréciant hautement les sentiments qui ont déterminé votre Altesse à faire cette démarche et animé moi-même du désir de mettre un terme à une lutte sanglante et de faciliter le rétablissement de bons rapports avec la Sublime Porte, j'ai l'honneur d'informer votre Altesse que je suis prêt à entrer en négociations directes avec le Gouvernement Impérial. N'ayant pas momentanément de représentant à Constantinople, je crois devoir prier votre Altesse de bien vouloir communiquer, par l'entremise de l'Ambassadeur Impérial à Vienne, à mon Agent dans cette ville, les bases sur lesquelles les négociations devraient être entamées.

No. 129.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 3,* 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that General Ignatiew arrived here from Constantinople on Sunday night, the 28th ultimo, and that he left on Wednesday the 31st. He attributed his having taken this route, instead of returning to Russia by Odessa, to the stormy weather in the Black Sea and to the closing of that port by ice.

I am informed that he endeavoured to persuade the Greek Ministers and the other Greek politicians with whom he was brought in contact, that, from the very commencement of the recent Conferences at Constantinople, he had advocated the cause of the Hellenic provinces and populations, but that none of the other Plenipotentiaries could be induced to listen to him.

He also tried to convince them that there was no real antagonism between Slavism and Hellenism.

I have not yet ascertained whether he made any actual promises to the Hellenic Government of territorial aggrandisement in the event of Greece taking part in a war against Turkey.

The General's reputation is, however, so well known here that I doubt whether he succeeded in convincing anyone of the sincerity of his Philhellenic professions.

Indeed, he is associated in the Hellenic mind with the Cretan insurrection, with the schism of the Bulgarian Church, and as the main author of the bitter antagonism which now exists between Slavism and Hellenism; and no individual can have contributed in an equal degree to the present alienation of the Hellenic race from Russia.

During his short stay here, an ill-advised and absurd attempt to get up a demonstration in his favour was made by a certain Bulgarian refugee named Leonidas Bulgaris, amongst some Bulgarian workmen, who, to the number of some thirty or forty, went to the General's hotel and sent up an address to him.

This incident naturally provoked a much more serious counter-demonstration on the part of the Macedonian Colony in Athens, who desire to retain their Hellenic nationality. They drew up a vehement protest against the proceedings of the Bulgarian workmen, and paraded the streets and passed before the hotel shouting and singing in favour of Hellenism; and the police had great trouble during the night in preventing preparations which were on foot for renewed demonstrations on the following morning.

As it was, the General was followed by unfriendly shouts at the Piræus when he got into his boat to go on board the Russian gunboat, where he is said to have been visited by M. Leonidas Bulgaris before starting.

When questioned respecting the prospect of war between Russia and Turkey, General Ignatiew appears to have answered—at any rate to some of his interrogators—that as Europe, and more especially England, had identified herself with Russia at the Conferences, the latter Power was not bound to go to war single-handed; that perhaps a Congress might meet to decide upon the adoption of a common course of action towards Turkey, or that Russia might, perhaps, be requested by the other Powers to act on their behalf.

He expressed to Admiral Sir James Drummond, whom he visited before leaving the Piræus, as well as to others, the worst possible opinion of the present Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and of the state of affairs in Turkey, declaring that bloodshed and anarchy would shortly become prevalent, and precipitate the active intervention of the European Powers, in which case Russia would be ready to pour her armies across the Danube and into Asia Minor. He further mentioned to the Admiral that Persia was prepared to attack Turkey.

I regret not to have had a personal interview with General Ignatiew on the occasion of his recent stay here. I was formerly intimate with him at Constantinople, and we exchanged visits the other day, but without finding each other at home.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 130.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Athens, Febuary* 3, 1877.

AS an indication of the present state of feeling in Greece, I do myself the honour to inclose an article from the last number of the "Messager d'Athènes," rejoicing at the failure of the Conferences at Constantinople as having saved the Hellenic populations of Turkey from a most serious danger, and giving credit to the Porte for its firmness in refusing to grant exceptional privileges to its Slavonic subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes."

Athènes, le $\frac{15}{27}$ *Janvier*, 1877.

LA politique maintenant dominante en Europe est chose si peu stable, si peu sûre, si peu honnête même qu'elle tient les petits Etats dans des frayeurs continuelles. Hier encore, il nous était donné d'assister à un spectacle des plus édifiants. Les Représentants des Grandes Puissances, réunies autour d'un tapis vert, délibéraient sur les moyens de substituer à la langue Grecque l'idiome inculte des Bulgares; en d'autres termes, ils ne cherchaient pas à aplanir les difficultés qui existent aujourd'hui en Orient, mais à compliquer la situation en dépouillant la nationalité Hellène de ses droits historiques au profit d'une minorité étrangère, admise jadis à participer à sa vie nationale.

A quels mobiles, à quelles pensées inavouables, à quels honteux calculs obéissait-on en menaçant la Porte des colères de l'Europe si elle refusait de sanctionner cette grande iniquité internationale? C'est ce que nous ne saurons peut-être jamais. Ce que nous pouvons avancer dès à présent, c'est que la conduite de nos frères a été de tous points admirable. Abandonnés de tous, trahis par les nations qui avaient promis à la Grèce officielle de prendre la défense de leurs intérêts s'ils persévéraient à revendiquer leurs droits sans sortir des voies légales, ils ont trouvé en eux-mêmes les ressources, les forces nécessaires pour faire face aux dangers qui les menaçaient. Ils ont déclaré à la face du monde qu'ils résisteraient aux décisions de l'Europe, qu'ils accueilleraient sa gendarmerie à coups de fusil.

Nous ne pouvons envisager sans frémir le danger auquel vient d'échapper nos frères de Turquie. Si la Porte avait faibli un moment, si elle n'avait compris dès le principe que la concession de priviléges exceptionnels aux Slaves auraient provoqué un soulèvement général parmi les Grecs, que l'annexion des districts Hellènes de la Thrace et de la Macédoine à la Bulgarie aurait déchaîné sur la presqu'île des Balkans les horreurs d'une guerre sociale, l'Europe se verrait aujourd'hui dans la cruelle alternative de procéder à une destruction systématique de la nation Grecque ou de voir ses résolutions méprisées par les populations mêmes dont elle prétendait améliorer la condition.

Nous n'avons donc pas le courage de nous attendrir sur les vicissitudes d'une Conférence, dont le programme était la négation même des droits de la nationalité Hellénique, pas plus que nous n'en voulons à la Turquie de l'avoir fait échouer en lui opposant un programme plus large, plus équitable, et plus libéral. Que la Porte procède, sans retard, à l'application de son programme, qu'elle ne mette aucune entrave au développement moral et matériel des différentes nationalités de l'Empire, qu'elle accorde aux provinces, comme aux communes, les franchises qu'elle a proclamées dans la Constitution, et ses populations, profondément désaffectionnées aujourd'hui, travailleront de concert au relèvement, à la prospérité de la patrie commune. Mais que les hommes d'Etat Ottomans se pénètrent bien de cette vérité, la moindre indécision dans l'application sincère de la Charte sera fatale en ce sens que ni l'Europe ni les populations Chrétiennes de l'Empire ne croiront plus jamais à la bonne foi, à la loyauté des promesses Turques.

La Turquie ne peut vivre désormais qu'en avançant dans la nouvelle voie où elle vient de s'engager. Toute tentative de retour vers le passé serait suivie d'insurrections qui auraient peut-être cette fois l'appui moral et matériel de l'Europe.

No. 131.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 3. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, February* 1, 1877.

BARON VON PUTHAMMER, a retired Colonel in the Prussian service, accompanied me from Ragusa to Cettigné. He is the bearer of a letter of recommendation to Prince Nicholas from Prince Frederick Charles, but he assures me that he has no political mission. He was received by the Prince this morning.

He has told me that at Berlin war between Russia and Turkey is considered in military circles as inevitable. He stated at the same time that he was sure that neither Prince Bismarck nor any one else in Germany would "move their little finger" to help Russia in a crusade in favour of the Slavs.

He has, I believe, told the Prince his opinion as to the sentiments prevalent in Germany in this respect; but I do not think that in his conversation with His Highness he touched upon the probability of a Russo-Turkish war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 132.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 4. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, February* 1, 1877.

WITH reference to Prince Nicholas' observation (reported in my despatch No. 2 of this date*) as to the supplies of provisions received in Montenegro from Russia, I have the honour to state that twelve large steamers have been chartered by the Russian Committees to bring cargoes of grain from Odessa to Cattaro.

Six of these steamers have already arrived, and I saw two of them at Cattaro yesterday.

I believe that on a moderate computation they will place the Principality in possession of food sufficient for more than a year, without the necessity of recourse to indigenous supplies.

Colonel Thömmel assures me that he is satisfied also that there is ample provision of ammunition, and that immense quantities of cartridges are being manufactured.

Whence and how the powder for these cartridges has been introduced into Montenegro is to me, I confess, a mystery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 133.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, February* 1, 1877.

I RECEIVED at Cattaro a telegram from Mr. Jocelyn, asking me if I know whether it was true that the Slav Committees in Dalmatia were causing trouble among the refugees who wish to return to their homes.

I doubt whether at present there are many such persons among the refugees; but I fear that it is certain that the Committees are making mischief, and I have lately seen several "distinguished" insurgents in the streets of Ragusa.

Colonel Thömmel ridiculed this assertion of mine yesterday, but when I asked him whether Baron Rodich's recent selection of a President of the Dalmatian Diet, and of a new Civil Governor for Ragusa, in the persons of two most notorious partisans of the insurrection, had no significance, his countenance fell, and he was compelled to own that these nominations were at any rate "injudicious."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

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* See No. 171.

No. 134.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 92. Confidential.)
Vienna, February 1, 1877.

My Lord,

HAVING met Count Andrassy this afternoon, I asked his opinion as to the negotiation for peace proposed by the Porte being accepted by Servia and Montenegro.

His Excellency said that as yet he had received little information on the subject from Cettigné, and that he feared, unless the Porte relinquished its claim for guarantees, there was little prospect of an arrangement with Servia. He had, therefore, strongly advised the Turkish Government to abandon a claim from which they could derive no advantage, as they could obtain no more efficient guarantee for the future maintenance of peace than the disastrous consequences of the war, from which it would take Servia at least ten years to recover. Besides, unless the Porte raised a question on which national feeling might be excited against Turkey, the different parties in the Principality would be sufficiently occupied in quarrelling among themselves as to their responsibility for the disasters of the war and the debts which the country will have to provide for.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 135.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 101.)
Vienna, February 3, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE had some conversation to-day with Baron Orczy respecting the guarantees for the maintenance of peace, which Mr. Jocelyn mentioned in his telegram of the 1st instant as those which the Porte will probably ask from Servia.

His Excellency expressed a personal opinion that the proposals of the Grand Vizier might possibly be carried out consistently with the maintenance of the *status quo ante*, but that he thought a new engagement to maintain the joint flying of the Turkish and Servian flags will be seriously objected to at Belgrade.

Under present circumstances, indeed, it appears to me also that, as a Turkish flag on a Servian fortress would prove as great an irritant as a red one to a bull, it could not well be considered a guarantee for the maintenance of peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 136.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 104.)
Vienna, February 4, 1877.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY mentioned to me to-day that according to a telegram which he had just received from Constantinople, there appeared to be a party there with whom the brother-in-law of the Sultan is acting, who are endeavouring to bring about the dismissal of Midhat Pasha.

His Excellency, who expressed much concern at this intelligence, said he should consider the future of the Turkish Empire as hopeless if the Sultan is blind enough to dismiss a Minister who has so far brought it successfully through circumstances of great difficulty, and is striving to cure the evils which have been ruining the country.

He seemed to think that something should be done to counteract this intrigue in the Palace at Constantinople, but said it was difficult to see how to do so under present circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN

No. 137.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 106.)
Vienna, February 5, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE been told by my Italian colleague that he received a telegram this evening from Rome, informing him that his Government think favourably of Prince Gortchakow's Circular on the subject of the Conference, with the substance of which they had just been made acquainted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 138.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 108.)
Vienna, February 5, 1877.

My Lord,

I UNDERSTAND that the Servian Agent was made acquainted to-day by the Turkish Ambassador with the moral guarantees for the future maintenance of peace, which his Government considers itself entitled to claim from Servia, but that Aleko Pasha intimated at the same time that they may not all be insisted upon, as necessary to the restoration of the former relations of the Principality with the Porte.

The favourable impression, however, produced by this intelligence has been painfully counteracted by a telegram which Count Andrassy has received this evening, informing him that Midhat Pasha has been dismissed by the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 139.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 113.)
Vienna, February 6, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram and despatch of yesterday evening, respecting the negotiations with Servia and the fall of Midhat Pasha, I find that the impression at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to-day, is that the Sultan has been led to believe that he will improve his relations with foreign Powers by the change which has taken place in the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 140.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 114. Most Confidential.)
Vienna, February 6, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Lord Odo Russell's despatches No. 36 of the 16th ultimo, and No. 43 of the 25th marked Secret, on the relations of Austria-Hungary with Germany and Russia, I would observe that Prince Bismarck appears to have described correctly, in a few words, the understanding between Austria and Russia, as an earnest desire to maintain the peace of Europe doubtless unites them for the purpose of averting war. The question, however, still remains, as to whether their respective interests, which he said differed on certain points, may not render this eventually impossible, and while I cannot see how their interests can be reconciled, in the event of Russia taking active measures to bring about a disruption of the Turkish Empire, Count Andrassy is evidently of opinion that, if Russia were strong enough, they would be soon brought into collision.

I have from time to time reported to your Lordship observations of his Excellency, from which it may be presumed that he considers the preservation of peace to depend more on the weakness of Russia than on her desire to maintain it, and in confirmation of

this I may mention that yesterday, on my observing in a private conversation with his Excellency, that the rivers in the East of Europe were fortunately not bridged this year by ice, he said it was still more fortunate that men enough had not be forthcoming to cross them.

There is no doubt, however, that he will do everything in his power to prolong the so-called alliance of the three Emperors; but I am not disposed to attach as much importance, as some some persons appear to have done at Berlin, to the visits of the Austrian Ambassador to Vienna, and to the recent presence at Berlin of the Grand Duke Wladimir and the German Ambassador to this Court.

The first time Count Carolyi came here he made no secret of his having been sent for by Count Andrassy, and his arrival was reasonably accounted for from its being simultaneous with the Council of the two Ministries, which took place under the Presidency of the Emperor, and at which explanations on the political position of the Empire were given by Count Andrassy, which led to the resolution that the neutral and expectant attitude hitherto adopted should be maintained.

The second visit of Count Carolyi was evidently for the purpose which he represented it to be, as he did not go to Buda-Pesth, and spent the whole period of his absence from Berlin at his estate near Presburg, where he and a party of friends killed a fabulous quantity of pheasants and other game.

With regard to the Grand Duke Wladimir's visit to Berlin, it appears to me that, considering the double near relationship of the Emperor Alexander with her Royal Highness, it was to be expected that His Majesty would send a member of the Imperial family to her funeral.

As to Count Stolberg, the German Ambassador here, whatever confidential communications he may have had to make to Prince Bismarck, his Excellency immediately announced, on the death of the Princess Charles, his intention of attending the funeral, which he was probably induced to do, not only as the Emperor William's Ambassador, but because his wife, a Princess of Reuss, is the sister-in-law of the Grand Duke Mecklenburg-Schwerin, who is the nephew of His Imperial Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 141.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 117. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 5, 1877.*

AT an interview which I had yesterday with Count Andrassy, his Excellency said he had heard from Constantinople that Midhat Pasha thought of complying with the Prince of Montenegro's wish for an extension of the Montenegrin frontier towards the Sutorina; and he said Austria-Hungary would have serious objections to any territorial concessions to Prince Nicolas in that direction.

I told his Excellency that I believed he need be under no apprehension on the subject, as Her Majesty's Government had learnt confidentially, as reported in Mr Jocelyn's telegram of the 1st instant, that the Porte is not prepared to rectify the frontier on the Sutorina side, according to the proposal made to the Conference by General Ignatiew; and that though permission may be given to the Montenegrins to use pasture lands on the south, no cession of territory will be made to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 142.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 123. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 8, 1877.*

BARON WERTHER, Count Chaudordy, and Count Corti, passed through Vienna last week on their way from Constantinople, but made no stay.

General Ignatiew arrived from Brindisi on Monday evening, and had intended proceeding to Kiew and St. Petersburgh yesterday.

Having been invited, however, to a ball at Court, which took place last night, he only left this morning.

His language has been pacific, and he has represented war to be unnecessary to bring about changes in the East, as the Porte itself will prove a sufficiently powerful dissolvent of the Turkish Empire.

When I met him at the ball he spoke to me in the same sense, observing that the best policy to pursue towards the Porte was to leave it to itself ("cuire dans son propre jus"), and allow anarchy and revolution to settle the future.

With regard to the fall of Midhat Pasha, with which he has expressed great satisfaction, he said he knew it was imminent before he left Constantinople, and that he had telegraphed to St. Petersburgh that his dismissal would certainly occur within eight days.

I am told, he says, Edhem Pasha's power will also be of short duration, and that Achmet Vefic Pasha, who is one of the most advanced of the young Turk party, will be his successor. If so, it is to be hoped that this functionary is not the great admirer he is said to be here of the first French revolution, as he is represented to consider that the equality which he desires of the various races of the Turkish Empire can only be established by sending to the guillotine all those who may wish to maintain the old state of things.

After my conversation with General Ignatiew, I observed to Count Andrassy that from what he had said to me, he seemed to consider there was no longer any probability of war, but his Excellency replied that he had not stated so much to him. This is not very satisfactory, as they have had several long interviews in which Count Andrassy doubtless endeavoured to ascertain the decision which would finally be taken at St. Petersburgh on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 143.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 125. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 8, 1877.*

THE Russian Circular of the 31st ultimo was communicated to Count Andrassy two days ago.

On my asking his opinion of it yesterday, we said that its language is moderate, and rather encourages a hope that peace may be preserved than the reverse.

I have also been informed by Baron Orczy that Count Andrassy is of opinion that as it was written under other circumstances, and while Midhat Pasha was all-powerful at Constantinople, it is not improbable that it may be followed by another, expressing still more pacific views.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 144.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 126. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 8, 1877.*

THE Turkish Ambassador informed me to-day that Count Andrassy has expressed to him in the strongest terms his concern and regret at what he considers the suicidal act by which the Sultan Hamid has deprived himself of the services of the only man who appeared to have the ability and energy required to save his Empire from the dangers with which it is surrounded, observations which, he said, were only addressed to him personally, as it seems vain to offer advice or counsel at Constantinople.

As Aleko Pasha said he had reported Count Andrassy's language to his Government, I remarked that if he had courage to tell them such truth he had better add that the Emperor, in expressing to me last night his surprise and regret at Midhat Pasha's exile,

observed that it is now impossible to place any confidence in the Porte, as the Turks seem to be incurable ("sont incurables").

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 145.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 127. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February* 8, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 117 of the 5th instant, on the subject of the territorial concessions to be granted to Montenegro, there appears to be still great anxiety here, lest they shall be extended towards Sutorina and the sea.

The Turkish Ambassador called on me this morning to inform me that the Emperor, who had spoken to him in the most friendly manner during the diplomatic circle at the Palace last night, entered again into conversation with him at a later period of the evening, and said, with some excitement, that he had been surprised to learn that the Porte had decided to make concessions to Montenegro on its southern frontier, which could not be seen with indifference by the Austro-Hungarian Government.

Aleko Pasha said that Count Andrassy had already spoken to him in the same sense, and had even gone so far as to intimate that, though Austria had no objection to the districts in question being in Turkish hands, it would be extremely inconvenient to have Montenegrins for neighbours there, and if the Porte persisted in its alleged intention of ceding them to Prince Nicholas, it might be found necessary to protect Austrian interests at the expense of Turkey, against the inconveniences which would result from the contemplated changes.

I told Aleko Pasha that I had already assured Count Andrassy that the late Grand Vizier had not been prepared to make the concessions referred to, and that I would acquaint Baron Orczy in the course of the day with my having received telegrams from Cettigné and Constantinople, from which it appeared improbable that Edhem Pasha intended to go further than his predecessor to meet the wishes of Prince Nicholas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 146.

Mr. Strachey to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 6. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Dresden, February* 8, 1877.

MURAD EFFENDI, the Turkish Consul-General here, an Austrian who has passed his life in the service of the Porte, and is well known in Germany as a dramatic and general author and publicist, was some time since placed in official connection with the Ottoman Embassy at Berlin.

Before Edhem Pasha's departure for Constantinople, Murad Effendi was in frequent personal communication with his Highness, who has since maintained an active correspondence with his subordinate.

Yesterday Murad read to me part of a letter from the new Grand Vizier, which he had just received.

Edhem Pasha wrote:—"Vous auriez déjà eu connaissance de la triste fin des Conférences. Nous nous sommes trouvés en face de dix diplomates qui déraisonnaient (the *ipsissima verba*)! On nous a demandé des concessions des plus irréconciliables avec l'indépendance et la dignité de l'Empire. Telles étaient les demandes de l'autonomie, des Valis, la délimitation des vilayets, &c. Nous n'avons pas pu céder, et vu que Sa Majesté——" Here Murad paused, passing to a more gossiping part of the letter, and remarking that the Sultan shared the views of his Ministers.

Murad informs me that Edhem has never dropped any hint of an approaching change. He thinks it likely that Midhat's fall may have been in part, or altogether, due to his rough character and temper, which might easily have brought him into conflict with the Sultan. On the other hand, his removal may have been meant as a concession to Russia.

Murad says that the late Grand Vizier was the incarnation, personal and political, of anti-Russian Turk sentiment, and that his presence in office was a permanent challenge to Russia. On a recent occasion, Prince Gortchakow met a Turkish feeler as to an Ottoman Ambassador for St. Petersburgh with the answer, "Any one you like, only not an Armenian or a Midhatist."

Murad Effendi remarks that Edhem was Minister for Foreign Affairs about twenty years ago. Not a Turanian, but a Mahommedan Greek, he is very well educated, and, except when under the influence of his regular fortnightly attack of a painful complaint, reasonable and conciliatory enough. He is more enlightened and European than Midhat, and there can be no doubt that he will insist on the new Constitution being carried out with as much reality as the circumstances of Turkey admit.

Murad Effendi has always maintained that the Porte would never agree to the concessions demanded by the Powers, and he now expresses his confidence that the Grand Vizier will refuse to entertain any serious departure from the *non possumus* which has rendered the Conference nugatory. At any rate, he will not yield to Russian pressure, especially as the Muscovite prestige is now so broken, and the spirit of Ottoman resistance has been so thoroughly roused.

Murad Effendi says that the Porte's refusal was stimulated by the knowledge that England and Austria were, in spite of appearances, on the Turkish side. Our real views, he argues, were indicated in our very moderate basis of pacification for the Conference, which only included the *status quo ante* for Servia and Montenegro, and a vague demand of guarantees for Bulgaria, Bosnia, and Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. STRACHEY.

P.S.—The above remarks of Murad Effendi were made before the publication here of the telegrams explanatory of Midhat's fall.

G. S.

No. 147.

Major-General Stanton to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Munich, February* 9, 1877.

THE leading organs of the press of this country, inspired or otherwise, have, as was only to be expected, availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the recent fall of Midhat Pasha to publish their views respecting the forces which have been in operation in bringing about this result, and as to the effect it may be expected to produce with reference to a solution of the Eastern Question; and, as the columns of these journals offer the principal source from which any indication of the bent of public opinion in South Germany on matters of foreign policy can be obtained, some short extracts from one or two of these papers may possibly prove of interest to your Lordship.

The "Süd-Deutsche Presse," generally considered one of the organs of the Government, in its number of the 8th instant, after giving a short summary of the incidents connected with Midhat Pasha's tenure of office and his fall, remarks, "Tragi-comic as are these incidents, they possess an eminently political signification. They are the reply of Russia to the English *coup* of the 31st of May of last year—the fall of Abdul Aziz. They are still more than that; they are an answer of the three Imperial Powers to the presumption of Turkey in proclaiming, contrary to the advice of Europe, a Constitution at the moment of the assembly of the Conference; they are, finally, an answer of Germany to the French provocation of sending Chaudordy to Constantinople. It was Edhem Pasha who gave the French Plenipotentiary, on the latter making remarks about the Bulgarian cruelties, the brutal but justifiable answer of a reminder of the night of St. Bartholomew, and this Edhem Pasha was, moreover, formerly Turkish Ambassador at Berlin. The embittered cry of the French papers proves the force of this stroke, and, in a word, the new and startling defeat of French policy."

The article then remarks on the efforts being made to strengthen the alliance of the three Empires, which it considers, according to all appearances, have, in the fullest sense of the word, been successful; and it continues, "European politics will be able to make as good a provisional settlement out of the 5th February of this year, as out of the fall of Abdul Aziz on the 31st of May last; the latter date was a defeat in the first line for Russia; in the second, for the alliance of the three Emperors. The new date implies a great victory for the latter,

An article in the "Augsburg Allgemeine Zeitung" of the same date appears, however, to merit more serious consideration than the apparently far-fetched conclusions of the organ of the National Liberal party; and this article, of which I have the honour to transmit a translation prepared by Mr. Cope, remarking on the defeat in May last of General Ignatiew's plans for the occupation of Constantinople by Russian troops, which it attributes to the watchfulness and energy of Midhat Pasha, adds that the promulgation on the 23rd of December last of the Constitution was the heaviest political blow to Russia. We must not, it states, deceive ourselves with the idea that the removal of Midhat is the consequence of a spontaneous decision of the Sultan, nor the result of a simple intrigue in the palace. The old Turkey party was, it remarks, "always more pleasing to the wire-pullers of the Russians on the Neva, and to their diplomatic agents, than the young Turkey party, which drank at the clear spring of modern political enlightenment on the banks of the Seine and the Thames. The young Turk Midhat succeeded in making head against the serious Russian intrigues, and Ignatiew and Co., after a series of diplomatic defeats, were beaten out of the field." And it adds, "although we hear on all sides songs of joy in the semi-official circles which think they see in the nomination of Edhem as Grand Vizier a concession to the alliance of the three Emperors, it appears to us to be nothing more or less than a triumph for Russia."

The article concludes with the remark, "The old Turkey party, especially the half-educated portion of it, will lift its head bolder than ever, and its influence is sure to raise in the provinces a spirit that will render the whole work of a Constitution illusory; but there will be much to fish out of these troubled waters for Russia."

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. STANTON.

Inclosure in No. 147.

Article from the "Allgemeine Zeitung" of February 8, 1877.

(Translation.)

THE FALL OF MIDHAT PASHA.—Of all the sensational news which from time to time, for about a year, has been sent to us from the Bosphorus, the last, which announces the removal of Midhat Pasha from the helm, appears by no means the least important.

We must call to mind what troublesome diplomatic and political work this man has carried out, in such stirring times as the past year, in order fully to appreciate the gap which has been left in the work of reform only just begun, by the fall of the first Grand Vizier of the Constitutional era.

Midhat's services to Turkey have already been spoken of by us with approbation, and duly appreciated. He had, however, scarce completed his endeavours for reform by the proclamation of the Constitution, worked out by himself, when some undermining power, of which the details can only as yet be guessed at, hurled away the originator of this work.

Anyone who takes the trouble to pull aside, ever so little, the draperies which hang about the inaccessible halls of Dolmabagtch, is involuntarily struck with the idea that there soon will be a catastrophe there.

The failure of the Conference has its after effects in the fall of him who was the most instrumental in bringing it about, and we can readily fancy other agents, who probably stood in some relation to one or other of the Delegates or Ambassadors, being pulled down with him.

After the 29th of May of last year, when the plans of Ignatiew for the occupation of Constantinople by Russian troops, and the carrying off of the late Sultan Abdul Aziz for his personal safety to a Russian port, were upset by the watchfulness and energy of Midhat Pasha, the old enmity between these two statesmen reached its highest point.

Ignatiew for some months turned his back on the city of the Caliphs to pull the strings from a distance, which were intended, if possible, to involve the Eastern question in greater confusion. In fact the Porte could not, in spite of its undeniable military success in the late war, free itself in the ordinary way from its attackers and oppressors.

Then came a period full of puzzling political announcements, of alarming military demonstrations, and, when nothing seemed to be undertaken by the diplomacy of the West, Midhat came out with his scheme of a Constitution, and by its promulgation on the 23rd of December last a bolt was pushed-to against the intervention of the West

in the affairs of the whole of the Empire. This was the heaviest political blow to Russia.

Almost every day Ignatiew was obliged to listen, in the sittings of the Conference, to comments on the pending questions, which must have seemed to him like being gently preached at: "that Turkey had now a free political life, whilst there remained plenty still to be set in order in Russia." They had exploded Ignatiew's powder, but he, the master of the demonstration, managed to get up a collective movement, which has generally been declared to be of no importance.

All the Ambassadors and Ministers Plenipotentiary of the Five Great European Powers accredited to the Porte took their departure, and whilst Ignatiew hurried to the Imperial city on the Danube, the mine for which, no doubt, Russian political agitators had supplied the powder, was sprung at the Bosphorus.

By the fall of Midhat the old Turkey party is again at the helm. Edhem Pasha has received the Seal of the Empire, and the traditions of Mussulman Conservatism float again on the surface.

It is difficult at the present moment to calculate whether, with this change of Government, an actual change of system will also be introduced. There can, in reality, be no question in Turkey of a change of system in its most comprehensive meaning. All that Midhat, with so much toil and trouble, started, has scarce thrown its waves over the boundary of the nearest provinces. The whole catastrophe can only be called a fall of the Ministry. There is no question of any disturbance of the general internal affairs of the Empire. All that the Governors of the Provinces have carried out since Midhat's entry into office as Vizier has simply been the unsatisfactory election of certain Members of Parliament for Roumelia, Bulgaria, Bosnia, and the capital of the Empire, and the publication of certain of the Vizier's proclamations, of which the most important was that in which Midhat enjoined on the Representatives of the Government in the Provinces to keep up, as far as lay in their power, a good understanding amongst the different races and religions in order to cut away all ground for remonstrance and intervention on the part of the west of Europe.

Notwithstanding that Midhat exhibited in foreign politics the full energy and honourable assurance of a statesman who had truly enough to do to paralyse the interference, contrary to all International Law, of a power desirous of conquest, he was tractable and conciliatory by nature, and full of useful thoughts where it was necessary to forward the Administration under his Government in the young Constitutional Empire.

All this was eminently a danger to the Russian preponderance. We must not deceive ourselves with the idea that the removal of Midhat is the consequence of a spontaneous decision of the Sultan, neither is it the result of a mere intrigue in the Palace, such as we saw many of a year ago, when the bad influence of the Sultana Valide was paramount in the fairy rooms of Dolmabagtch, in the reign of Abdul Aziz. The old Turkey party was always more pleasing to the wire-pullers of the Russians on the Neva, and to their diplomatic Agents, than the young Turkey party, which drank at the clear spring of modern political enlightenment on the banks of the Seine and the Thames. The young Turk Midhat succeeded in making head against the serious Russian intrigues; and Ignatiew and Co., after a series of diplomatic defeats, were beaten out of the field. Although we hear on all sides songs of joy in the semi-official circles which think they see in the nomination of Edhem as Grand Vizier a concession to the alliance of the three Emperors, it appears to us to be nothing more or less than a triumph for Russia. The morose and bitter Edhem, who would get an attack of the nerves at the fall of a rose-leaf, as the sycophants of old used to do, and who acts with more boldness than wisdom, and who sees in every European arrangement an insult to the genius of Moslem, and who, as we know, once made the assertion that the Turks had not yet forgotten the way to Vienna, this same Edhem is the most welcome diplomatic victim for Russia. It is true that Edhem, like Midhat, hates everything Slavonian, but rather from caprice; he is not a complaisant subject, like Mahmud Nedim; all, however, that Midhat, with his energy, failed to bring to pass, Edhem with his caprice and sullenness will never accomplish, so this change of Ministry is a retrograde movement of the Porte. The old Turkey party, especially the half-educated part of it, will lift its head bolder than ever, and its influence is sure to raise in the provinces a spirit that will render the whole work of a Constitution illusory; but there will be much to fish out of these troubled waters for—Russia!

No. 148.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 12.)

Cettigné, February 12, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

PORTE does not refuse to treat at Vienna, but has again proposed Constantinople.

Prince Nicholas will, I think, reply that he must hold to Vienna for the general discussion of frontier rectification, although he may hint that the final details of the proposals of 1875 can be settled at Constantinople.

The strong reason in His Highness's mind in favour of Vienna is the necessity of eliciting from the Russian Ambassador there a clear declaration that Russia does not mean to interpose any obstacles later on. His Highness is anxious to obtain reassuring assurance from high functionary, such as M. Novikoff, so as to enable him to enter into negotiation without apprehension of being checked at a later date.

No. 149.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 33.)

Foreign Office, February 12, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE seen the Russian Ambassador this afternoon, and have informed him that, acting upon the personal suggestion he had made to me, I had instructed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, by telegraph, to ascertain whether Edhem Pasha would be in favour of adopting the reforms proposed by the Conference, now that the Porte could do so without the appearance of yielding to foreign pressure; and that Mr Jocelyn was directed to represent the expediency of this course as likely to diminish greatly the danger of war.

I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of the instruction which I have addressed to Mr. Jocelyn on the subject.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 150.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.†—(Received February 12.)

St. Petersburgh, February 12, 1877, 10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW told me to-day that he had received satisfactory information in regard to Turco-Servian negotiations. He considered Turkish proposal for equality of Jews contravened the basis of the *status quo ante*, but he thought Porte would come to terms. He expressed desire for successful issue of negotiations, but refrained from giving advice.

General Ignatiew expected to-day.

No. 151.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 106.)

Constantinople, February 6, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a rough digest of the Imperial Rescript which appeared yesterday, and cannot be translated before to-morrow, in which the maintenance of the Constitution is promised, and even one of its Articles appealed to in justification of the arbitrary banishment of Midhat Pasha.

The principal Ministerial changes contained in it are the following:—

Djevdeh Pasha to be Minister of the Interior, a post now revived.

Costaki Bey, a Greek, and formerly Prince of Samos, to be his Mustechar or Councillor.

Cadri Pasha to be President of the Council of State.

Ahmed Vefik to be President of the Chamber: a temporary appointment, this functionary being, according to the Constitution, eligible by the Chamber itself.

An Armenian, Ovanez Effendi, to be Minister of Commerce.

Assim Pasha, late Governor of Adrianople, to be Minister of Justice.

Sadyk Pasha, late Ambassador at Paris, to be Governor of the Danube Provinces, and Ali Pasha to be Governor of Adrianople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

* No. 127.

† Repeated to Constantinople and Belgrade.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Substance of Imperial Rescript.

Mon Illustre Vézir Edhem Pacha, 21 *Mouharrem*, 1294 (*February* 5, 1877).

Il devient nécessaire de faire respecter par tous la Constitution que j'ai octroyé à mon propre gré et qui établit une nouvelle situation en Turquie, en harmonie avec les nécessités du jour.

Cette institution importante est appelée à inspirer une confiance réelle et à y garantir la prospérité du pays.

Pour atteindre ce but, il importe que tous les fonctionnaires sans exception agissent dans la sphère de leurs attributions et se soumettent aux prescriptions de la loi, pour que le droit d'égalité accordé à tous mes sujets, et les autres dispositions constitutionnelles nécessaires à leur bien être, soient fidèlement exécutées.

Il a fallu opérer de grands changements dans le personnel administratif. Des Ministres ont été remplacés par d'autres.

D'après la Constitution il y a eu des raisons pour éloigner Midhat Pacha du sol Ottoman. Ce dernier a été remplacé par vous (Edhem Pacha), qui jouissez de ma confiance.

La Chambre sera appelée à élaborer un règlement qui fixera les émoluments suffisants aux Mutessarifs et aux Caïmacams, et qui établira quel choix de ces Gouverneurs devra être fait parmi les fonctionnaires capables.

Il a été décidé de faire venir de l'Europe des spécialistes qui seront consultés pour l'amélioration de l'état des finances.

Le Musteshar du Grand Vézir présidera la Commission composée de membres du Conseil d'Etat, et des autres Musteshars chargés de l'élection des Caïmacams.

Vous veillerez à la bonne marche des affaires de l'Etat. En premier lieu vous soumettrez, sans retard, à ma sanction, les lois et les règlements promis par la Constitution et vous poursuivrez sans relâche toutes les autres améliorations et réformes exigées par les circonstances.

No. 152.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Zohrab.

(No. 2.)

Foreign Office, February 13, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 4 of the 6th instant, reporting your conversation with Samih Pasha on the subject of the late fire at Van, and I have to approve your remonstrances against the accuracy of Nazim Bey's report, as well as the representations which you made to his Excellency, with the view of proper steps being taken for the protection of the Christians in that place.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 153.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 13.)

Cettigné, February 13, 1877, noon.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, the answer sent by the Prince to the Grand Vizier last night states that His Highness must maintain his preference for Vienna.

I regret to add that the tone of this answer appears to me somewhat more peremptory than is suitable.

The continued absence of the Prince is very unsatisfactory, causing delay in correspondence, and much embarrassment to my Austrian colleague and myself, who are the only foreign Agents here.

No. 154.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 13, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

GRAND VIZIER informed me to-day that Prince Nicholas had accepted Porte's conditions, but still refuses to send a Delegate to Constantinople to treat for peace. His Highness maintained that, considering territorial changes that were to be discussed, and the general nature of the negotiations, it would be practically impossible that the Porte's Ambassador at Vienna should be charged to conduct them; and he trusts that your Lordship, taking the same view of the case, will urge Prince Nicholas to comply with Porte's reasonable wishes in this matter.

No. 155.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 6. Political.) *Beyrout, January* 18, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch, No. 5 of the 17th instant, with its inclosure, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, concerning the attempt of the Druses in the district of Acre to obtain exemption from the service of the army by the payment of the military tax.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 155.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Beyrout, January 17, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. Vice-Consul Jago's despatch of the 17th ultimo, reporting on an attempt of the Druses of the district of Acre to obtain exemption from service of the army by the payment of the military tax, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter and translation which I have recently received from the representatives of these Druses, from which it would appear that they have not been successful in their attempt, as they request my assistance in the matter.

Some years ago—I think in 1863 or 1864—the question was raised by the Druses of Safed, when they invoked as a precedent the exemption of the Druses of the Lebanon from conscription, and argued that the same exemption ought to be extended to all the Druses in Syria, but their arguments produced no results.

As I do not see how I can legitimately interfere in this matter, I take the liberty of referring it to your Excellency for such action as you may consider it advisable to take.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 155.

The Druses of Acre to Consul-General Eldridge.

(Translation.)

Sir,

WE have the honour to lay before you the following statement, showing the causes which have tended to the ruin and destruction of our Druse community in the district of Acre, viz.:—

Whenever any one of us is enrolled as a conscript or Redif, in order to escape he flees either to the Hauran or to some other place of refuge; our local authorities thereupon begin to exercise upon the remaining inhabitants of our villages all kinds of extortions, insults, and ill-treatment, which will eventually end in our entire destruction.

We thereupon humbly solicit you, as the Representative of the British Government in Beyrout, to communicate our case and ruined condition to the proper quarters and to intervene in our behalf, in order that we should be treated on the same footing as the other members of our community who reside in the Hauran and other districts, by paying a military tax, as we Druses have, after God, no other protector but the British Government.

We have, &c.
(The Representatives of the Druses of the District of Acre),
(Signed) ALI MODI.
TARIF EL MOHAMED.
HAMOUD HASSOUN.

No. 156.

Consul Skene to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 5. Political.) *Aleppo, January* 25, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch No. 6, reporting to Sir Henry Elliot on the excited state of the Christian population on account of the very frequent robberies committed in their quarter of the town by Mussulmans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Consul Skene to Sir H. Elliot.

Aleppo, January 25, 1877.

Sir,

ON the 20th instant I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency in cypher as follows:—

"Robbery of British interpreter reported in despatch No. 4 clearly made out against prisoner, who is declared not guilty. Christian members refused to sign acquittal. Governor-General says prisoner is innocent, and does nothing. Interpreter prays for inquiry by superior authorities. Christians attribute sentence to bribery. Mahommetans resent imputation. Several other robberies of Christian families by Mahommetans have taken place. State of the public feeling calls for prompt attention of Ministry."

In addition to the evidence stated in my despatch No. 4 to your Excellency, witnesses on the trial deposed that they had seen the prisoner running from the house without his shoes. The millers said that he had left the mill with his shoes on. The room from which the 800*l.* had been stolen was searched, not by the police or by order of the Tribunal, and the shoes were found in it, fitting the prisoner and sprinkled with flour from the mill.

Much excitement has been produced by this case, in which a respectable Christian family has been ruined, and the plunder apparently shared by the Turkish authorities. M. Tajer, the British Dragoman robbed, respectfully requests your Excellency to move the Porte to inquire into it.

In one of the more recent instances, the house of a Christian was broken into by four armed men, supposed to be soldiers of the Reserve, who took the value of 500*l.* They then called for supper and spirits, after enjoying which they summoned the lady of

the house, and atrocious purposes were announced, but she escaped by the terraced roof. On leaving the house with their booty they met a guard with a lantern, which was put out, and they passed in the dark.

Last week a Turkish functionary was stopped at night by three men, whom he recognized to be policemen, and he had them arrested.

Such a state of matters may lead to serious difficulties which the Governor-General appears unable to contend with. Though an intelligent man, with good intentions, he has bad advisers and has got out of his depth. The Porte alone can take steps to remedy the evils of Aleppo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. SKENE.

No. 157.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 2. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, January 31, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I am informed from the Herzegovina that the Prince of Montenegro refuses to permit the further victualling of Nichsich. The insurgent Chief Peko Paulovich, with a considerable force, holds the position of Kristach; and, without the consent of the Prince, will not allow any convoy to pass.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 158.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 3. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, February 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Commission of Control appointed in the month of March last to watch over the execution of the promised reforms, has been finally dissolved, and the President, Haidar Effendi, recalled to Constantinople.

The results of this Commission have been absolutely nil. The Governor-General of Bosnia, Ibrahim Pasha, and his successor the present Governor, Nasif Pasha, were always in opposition to Haidar Effendi, and no attention was ever paid to the recommendations of the Commission, which had even, for many months past, discontinued its sittings.

Haidar Effendi, by his affable and conciliating manner, made many friends amongst the Christians, but the native Mussulmans cannot forgive his Excellency for having been instrumental in granting permission to the former to put up bells in their churches. They are, consequently very glad that he has been recalled to Constantinople, as they think that perhaps now this permission may be rescinded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 159.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 4. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, February 2, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2, Political, of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have just received intelligence from the Herzegovina that on Thursday the 25th of January, eighty individuals on their way from Nichsich to Gatzko were attacked by the insurgents at Kristach, and only five of their number succeeded in reaching Gatzko.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 160.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 7. Consular.)
Bosna-Serai, January 30, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, according to instructions received from the Grand Vizier, a notice has been issued here prohibiting all persons to carry arms, except when travelling, and even then not without an express permit from the Government.

The Administrative Council of the vilayet, however, have thought fit to make an exception in favour of the Sandjaks of Bihach, Banialuka, and Novi Bazar. Until tranquillity be re-established, the inhabitants of these Sandjaks may carry arms in the rural districts without any special permit, but on entering the towns they must depose them at the guard-houses, to be returned to them again when they quit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 161.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 6.)
Scutari, February 3, 1877.

My Lord,

ON the 31st ultimo I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship that the Mirdites had taken Zeinel Bey and Ismail Agha Cruc Sui prisoners, although these persons had been sent to Miridicia by the Governor-General, in order to bring about an understanding between the Government and the mountaineers.

The Mirdites have also occupied, in force, the principal high-roads passing through their district, and are now at Ksize, opposite to Puka, where some Turkish regular troops are stationed at Dukadzin, and at an hour and a-half distant from Miet, which is also garrisoned by regular troops.

On this information being confirmed to me by the Governor-General, I at once recalled to his Excellency's mind the warnings I had given him six weeks ago, as reported in my despatch to Sir Henry Elliot, copy of which was transmitted to your Lordship in my No. 90 of the 23rd December, 1876, and I pointed out to him that he must now either face the fact that the Mirdites were in open rebellion, or turn it by coming at once to terms with them.

If his Excellency adopted the first course, he would have to prepare to see the whole of the Roman Catholic mountaineers join the Mirdites, they being fully aware that they could not safely permit their most powerful tribe to be crushed single-handed. His Excellency ought not for a moment to suppose that the interests of the Porte could be served by the outbreak of an insurrection in North Albania, whilst attempts were being made at Cettingé for negotiating peace with Montenegro, although he might fancy that he had the power to overcome the rebellion.

I urged his Excellency, therefore, to release at once the Mirdite Chief who had been arrested by an act of bad faith on the part of his predecessor, and to invite Prenk Bib Doda, through channels that could influence the young Chieftain, to come to Scutari for the purpose of arriving at an understanding with the Imperial Government.

Mustafa Pasha's dread that Prenk Bib Doda would demand to be named Mutessarif of Miridicia was lessened when I showed him that it would be better for the Chieftain to exercise his authority in the name of the Porte than in his own, as he was now doing, and his Excellency promised me to telegraph to Constantinople for authority to adopt a conciliatory course towards the Mirdites.

I, at the same time, obtained the permission of the Governor-General for two Mirdite Chiefs, Capitan Marco and Capitan Gioni, who had recently escaped from the Turkish service, as they had been threatened by some of the authorities, to return and resume their duties.

The rise of disorder in North Albania has not been sudden, but has followed exactly the course expected and reported in my despatches, and it has now reached a point from which it will burst out into as serious a rebellion as any of those that exist in the neighbouring provinces, provided the Turkish authorities persist in their determination to employ nothing but brute force in the attempt to subdue it. This policy, I am convinced, will not be successful, and can only lead to partial massacres on both sides.

I have already heard some Moslems advocate the same treatment for North Albania that smothered the movement in Bulgaria, but here the Christian populations, except in the towns, are as courageous and more numerous than the Moslems, and quite capable of turning the tables on their enemies.

With unsecured peace on the side of Montenegro, and insurrection in the North Albanian Mountains, the position of the Turks in this province will be most precarious, and it will continue to be aggravated as long as the Porte permits its subordinates to lean on the broken staffs of military force and Moslem fanaticism.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 162.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February 14.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 12 *Février*, 1877.

VOUS connaissez les bases que nous avons proposées au Gouvernement Servien. Celui-ci vient de nous faire connaître maintenant que M. Christich, ancien Agent de Servie à Constantinople, doit partir de Belgrade pour venir à Constantinople dans le but de terminer les négociations. Quant au Monténégro, le Prince Nicolas, tout en acceptant les négociations de paix sur la base du *statu quo ante* avec rectification de frontières et entente sur ses précédentes propositions, a demandé de nouveau que ces négociations se fissent à Vienne. Nous avons télégraphié à Son Altesse pour la prier d'envoyer son délégué à Constantinople, où se trouvent tous les documents, toutes les personnes pouvant faciliter la tâche du Gouvernement Impérial, et, en un mot, tous les éléments qui pourraient favoriser une prompte entente.

No. 163.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 104. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, February* 13, 1877.

THE Duc Decazes told me yesterday that the restoration of her old possessions in the South of Bessarabia to Russia had been mentioned in a conversation which had taken place between Sadig Pasha and Prince Orloff, the Russian Ambassador here.

Sadig Pasha has been removed from the post of Ottoman Ambassador here, and has been appointed Governor of the Vilayet of the Danube. He had, the Duc Decazes said, gone to take leave of Prince Orloff, and in speaking of the means of preserving peace, had admitted that some satisfaction must be given to Russia. He had then asked if there was anything which Russia desired in Asia, and had observed that the Port of Batoum had been mentioned, but that, though it was in fact an excellent harbour, it was entirely cut off from the interior by mountains.

Prince Orloff had answered that he believed this description of Batoum to be accurate, and that he had no reason to suppose that his Government had any particular wish to obtain possession of it.

Sadig Pasha had gone on to inquire whether there was anything Russia wanted in Europe.

Prince Orloff had at first said that there was nothing; but had proceeded to observe that there was of course one point on which Russia always felt sore, and that this point was the cession of territory she had made in 1856 after the Crimean War.

Sadig Pasha had replied that this was a matter of great delicacy which could only be treated by real statesmen.

Prince Orloff had upon this asked him whether Edhem Pasha and the Ministers at present in office at the Porte were not to be looked upon as real statesmen.

Sadig Pasha had not answered this question directly, but had observed that although he was now ordered to go direct from Paris to Rutschuk to enter upon the functions of the Government to which he had been appointed, he expected nevertheless to find himself at Constantinople in a fortnight or three weeks.

Having thus concluded his account of the conversation between Prince Orloff and Sadig Pasha, the Duc Decazes proceeded to express a strong desire to know what your

Lordship thought of the idea of giving Russia to understand that the Powers would not object to her resuming possession of the ceded territory.

He himself seemed to look upon this idea with great favour; he said that as matters stood he was afraid to pursue the subject with Prince Orloff, but that if he met with any encouragement from England he might take a step forward.

I asked the Duke what exactly were the means by which this transfer of territory might, in his opinion, be made to produce the cessation of the present crisis of the Eastern question.

His Excellency did not make this very clear to me; but he expatiated at some length upon his reasons for supposing that the recovery of the territory would be a great satisfaction to Russia. There were, he said, historical associations connected with Ismail and other spots in this part of Bessarabia. There was somewhere or other within it a column erected in honour of Russian victories. In short, there were various circumstances, which had made the loss of the territory a mortification to Russia, quite out of proportion to the material loss she had sustained. The same circumstances would increase her gratification in recovering it. Then it was well known that the desire to wipe out the humiliation inflicted upon Russia at the beginning of his reign by the Treaty of Paris was a ruling passion with the Emperor Alexander. He had been informed that some years ago, probably about the time at which the Black Sea question was raised in 1870, His Majesty had directed a communication to the Great Powers respecting the restitution of the Bessarabian territory to be prepared. Prince Gortchakow had, however, it seemed, represented to His Majesty that such a communication would be imprudent, and it had been withheld. In this Prince Gortchakow had, the Duke conceived, been over-cautious. Russia might very probably have been able to obtain the revision of the Treaties with regard to Bessarabia as easily as she had obtained their revision with regard to the Black Sea. But, however this might be, it seemed to the Duke fortunate that the restoration of this territory still remained as a further concession to be offered by Europe to Russia. The Emperor Alexander was believed to be ill, and in low spirits; and His Majesty would, perhaps, snatch at the consolation it would be to him to think that he should leave Russia to his son without any diminution of the territory with which he had received it from his own father, the Emperor Nicholas.

I observed to the Duke that nothing could be more pointed than the declarations made by Russia that she sought nothing whatever for herself, and had no thought but for the welfare of the Christian subjects of the Porte. Might not the Emperor Alexander and his people think that it would be very little to their credit to allow themselves to be bought off as it were by an acquisition of territory for themselves? Might they not resent the offer to buy them off in this way?

The Duke replied that Russia might still exercise in the fullest extent moral influence in favour of the Christians in Turkey; all that would be required of her would be to abstain from using military force against the Porte. He did not himself in the least fear that Russia would take offence at the offer to restore the territory to her, on the contrary, he felt sure that even if she did not accept it, she would regard it as a tribute from the Powers to her greatness, in fact, as a compliment.

But while the restoration of this territory would, the Duc Decazes thought, be a great satisfaction to the national pride of Russia, it would not, he conceived, give her any great accession of strength. The liberty of the navigation of the Danube would of course be effectually secured. No doubt the Russian and Turkish frontiers would again be brought into contact without the interposition of Roumania; but in practice it was not to be supposed that a Russian army invading Turkey would adopt a route which would much increase the difficulty of crossing the Danube. On the other hand, looking at the question from a diplomatic point of view, the actual contact of the two frontiers might perhaps do away with all pretext for an arrangement which Russia had before now found convenient. It might, in fact, be an obstacle to Russia's making a demonstration against Turkey, by occupying the Roumanian territory on which, though it was nominally an appendage of the empire, she was not likely to encounter a Turkish army.

The Duc Decazes, in fact, argued strongly in favour of a hint being given to Russia that the Powers would not object to her re-assuming her old position in Bessarabia; but he did not profess to have received any intimation from Russia herself as to the reception which would be given to such a hint.

The conversation between Prince Orloff and Sadig Pasha must have taken place on the day before yesterday, or on the day before that.

The Treaty of Paris was signed by Prince Orloff's father, and this has (as indeed

the Duc Decazes pointed out to me) given the Prince a peculiarly strong personal desire that his country should be relieved from all traces of the check inflicted on her by that Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 164.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 13, 1877, 11 P.M.

GRAND VIZIER replied to me to-day on the subject of your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant. He said that many of the proposed reforms referred to could not be carried out until they had been discussed by Chamber of Deputies, to meet next month; but that several of the most important were already in course of execution.

Referring to précis of conditions known as the "quintessence," the 7th and 8th paragraphs, respecting subdivision of provinces and election of Provincial Assemblies, are being carried out; the remission of taxes in ravaged districts, and complete freedom of worship, His Highness declared to be already granted. Turkish to remain the national language, but causes may be pleaded in any language.

Use of irregular troops forbidden, except in case of absolute necessity ("force majeure"), meaning absence of regulars under very critical circumstances.

Colonization of Circassians in large numbers is discontinued. Amnesty agreed to, if indiscriminately applied. Condition of farms in Bosnia and Herzegovina to be improved when order is restored. Purchase of land will be facilitated without prejudice to present proprietors.

Prohibition to carry arms excepting on a journey in the disturbed districts and in the towns already proclaimed.

Organization of police being improved, their salaries much increased, and a superior class of inspectors employed. Porte will appoint Commission of Control over the reforms; its President to be member of the Government, but the details of its composition not yet determined. All the other reforms in the quintessence must first receive sanction of the Parliament.

No. 165.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 13, 1877, 11·30 P.M.

VAHAN EFFENDI, the first Counsellor of the Minister of Justice, leaves to-morrow for England, to study working of our judicial system and the possibility of adapting it to the procedure of the Turkish Courts of law. Grand Vizier ventures to hope that he may receive the assistance of Her Majesty's Government in obtaining the information he requires.

No. 166.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 14, 9 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 13, 1877, 11·55 P.M.

SULIMAN BEY, an aide-de-camp of the Sultan, is here on his way to Berlin and Paris, and pretends to consult an oculist. I have ascertained, however, that he saw Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday, to deliver letter from the Sultan to the Emperor, which my informant says was one of courtesy, and had no reference to politics.

No. 167.

*Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received February* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February* 14, 1877, 2 P.M.

AFTER lengthened discussions between Servian Foreign Minister and Turkish Envoy, to which I devoted my good offices, latter departed this morning for Constantinople, accompanied by two delegates of Prince Milan, who have authority to terminate negotiation. Servia accepts four Turkish demands in principle. Question of Turkish Agent at Belgrade reserved for further discussion, and position of Jews probably to depend on further Servian legislation. Prince Milan intends convoking an enlarged National Assembly, and to ask its approval before concluding peace. There will be, however, no further negotiations here, and I feel justified in taking my departure in a couple of days. It is to be hoped that the Porte will continue to show at Constantinople the moderation lately exhibited here.

No. 168.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1877, 4 P.M.

FOLLOWING has been received from Constantinople dated yesterday:—

"Grand Vizier informed me to-day that Prince Nicholas had accepted Porte's conditions, but still refuses to send a Delegate to Constantinople to treat for peace. His Highness maintained that, considering territorial changes that were to be discussed and the general nature of the negotiations it would be practically impossible that the Porte's Ambassador at Vienna should be charged to conduct them, and he trusts that your Lordship, taking the same view of the case, will urge Prince Nicholas to comply with Porte's reasonable wishes in this respect."

Advise Prince Nicholas not to interpose difficulties in progress of peace negotiations.

No. 169.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1877, 4 P.M.

FOLLOWING has been received from Mr. Monson:—

"With reference to my telegram of yesterday, the answer sent by the Prince to the Grand Vizier last night states that His Highness must maintain his preference for Vienna. I regret to add that the tone of this answer appears to me somewhat more peremptory than is suitable.

"The continued absence of the Prince is very unsatisfactory, causing delay in correspondence and much embarrassment to my Austrian colleague and myself, who are the only foreign Agents here."

I have this day sent him the following message:—

"Advise Prince Nicholas not to interpose difficulties in progress of peace negotiations."

No. 170.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, February* 14, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

THE Prince has returned and I shall see him to-night. The Austrian Agent informs me that His Highness insists that the negotiations shall commence at Vienna, but will probably consent to their being continued at Constantinople as soon as a positive agreement on the most important points is reached. My Austrian colleague found His Highness' pretensions respecting territorial aggrandisement much modified, and his

* Repeated to Constantinople.

language altogether more satisfactory. Russia has telegraphed that she will not interfere.

No. 171.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 2. Political.)
Cettigné, February 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I STARTED from Ragusa on the morning of the 30th ultimo, and arrived at Cettigné last night.

I sent this morning to ask an audience of the Prince, and his Highness received me almost immediately.

In the course of a very cordial greeting he told me that the Princess Milena was at Orinluka, the country residence near the Albanian frontier, and that she would remain there until she was compelled to leave by the renewal of hostilities.

I replied, that it seemed to me that if his Highness chose, that contingency need not arise; and I proceeded to state, in the language of your Lordship's telegram, the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had learned the intention of the Porte to enter into direct negotiation with Servia and Montenegro; and their hope that his Highness would give proof of his moderation, and of his conciliatory disposition by coming to terms with Turkey. I added that, without making any specific recommendations to either belligerent, Her Majesty's Government were desirous of an agreement between them effected upon such conditions as would ensure a fair and lasting peace. That there might be no mistake as to the attitude of Her Majesty's Government, I showed his Highness a memorandum in French of the substance of your Lordship's telegrams to this effect, which he begged me to allow him to keep for reference.

The Prince then said that he had yesterday telegraphed to the Porte that he was ready to enter into negotiation, and that he wished to know the basis upon which it was proposed to treat. His answer had been delayed by the absence of his Secretary, who is not yet here, and he had excused himself to the Porte upon that ground. He proceeded to express to me his fear that the negotiations would lead to nothing. Had he been able to do so, he would have protested against the arrangement respecting Montenegro proposed by the Conference. He was especially hurt at the manner in which his request for access to the sea had been put aside, and very sorry that England had taken part in rejecting this particular point. It was only to be expected that the Porte, as the maximum of its concessions, would limit itself to the proposals of the Conference, though he did not anticipate even so much as that. After the sacrifices made by the Principality, and all the blood shed by his people, it would be better to continue the war, fearful and repugnant to him as was that prospect, than to make peace on terms not only inglorious, but containing in themselves the germs of discontent and of future trouble. He was receiving from Russia supplies of grain, which would find Montenegro in food for two years; and his people was prepared to recommence the struggle, and, as he thought, with every chance of keeping the Turks at bay as heretofore.

In reply to an observation which I here made that I understood that Servia was showing an intention to make peace, the Prince replied that, on the contrary, he had, during the night, received from M. Ristich a telegram to the effect that the terms proposed to Servia were far too onerous. He went on to say that Russia had told him that he must act independently of her, and that she could make no engagements of any kind. He had received officially (with an emphasis upon the word) no advice from Russia whatever. There was, however, a consideration which weighed heavily upon him, and which must materially affect his decision. His honour was engaged on behalf of the amelioration of the lot of the Christians in the Herzegovina, and he would be compromised in their eyes, and in the eyes, of his own people, if he were to make peace without any thought of those on whose account he had originally taken up arms. "You know," said his Highness, "that, in fact, the tranquillity of these regions depends upon Montenegro, and that, as long as we remain discontented and disappointed in the realization of aspirations which we consider just, our discontent and disappointment will react upon our neighbours."

To this I replied that I believed that this view was accepted as correct by all the Great Powers, and that the proposals which they had made collectively during the

Conference, and which England had been conspicuous in urging upon the acceptance of the Porte, was a clear proof that such was the case.

The Prince said that it was true that, from all that he had heard of the proceedings of the Conference, the efforts of the English Representative to obtain justice for the Christians in Turkey had been unremitting, and that he therefore trusted to the continual action of Her Majesty's Government in the same direction, and to their good-will towards himself to influence the Porte towards the exercise of a wise and liberal policy towards Montenegro; he would keep me constantly informed of the progress of negotiations, and hoped that I would not withhold my advice, as, although he quite understood that Her Majesty's Government undertook no responsibility as to the terms of peace, he should wish to consult me upon the proposals of the Porte as soon as he received them. Whatever they might be, he would give them a fair consideration, and would not lightly reject them.

Although I did not think it expedient to discourage the Prince from reposing a certain amount of confidence in me, I need hardly assure your Lordship that I shall be very careful not to compromise myself by giving his Highness any specific advice upon points which Her Majesty's Government have already informed me should be settled directly between Turkey and Montenegro themselves. I therefore simply told his Highness that, as far as I consistently could, I should always be ready to contribute to the conclusion of an equitable and durable peace, and that I trusted that, in spite of his gloomy previsions, such a result might be obtained.

I have only to add, in concluding my report of this interview, that the Prince treated me with all his usual cordiality, and that I have every reason to believe that the pleasure which he expressed at my return to Cettigné was genuine and sincere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 172.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 1.)
Foreign Office, February 14, 1877.

Sir,

I APPROVE the language used by you in your interview with the Prince of Montenegro of the 1st instant, as reported in your despatch No. 2 of that date.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 173.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 2.)
Foreign Office, February 14, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of yesterday, in which you stated that the Prince of Montenegro had, on the 12th, informed the Grand Vizier, in reply to his suggestion that he should send a Delegate to Constantinople, that he preferred to negotiate at Vienna; and you added that the tone of the answer appeared to you to be unnecessarily peremptory.

Your information is confirmed by a telegram from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, who had been informed by the Grand Vizier that the Prince had accepted the Porte's conditions, but had refused to send a Delegate to Constantinople. The Grand Vizier had expressed the hope that Her Majesty's Government would agree with him in thinking that, considering the general nature of the discussions, and especially the fact that territorial changes were to be discussed it would be practically impossible that the Ambassador of the Porte at Vienna should be charged with the conduct of the negotiations; and he had requested that we would urge the Prince to comply in this matter with the reasonable wishes of the Porte.

Her Majesty's Government consider that there is nothing unreasonable in the suggestion that the negotiations would be more likely to be brought to a successful issue if they should be conducted by a Montenegrin Delegate directly with the Turkish Government, than if they should be carried on indirectly through the Ambassador at Vienna; they are unaware of the motives which incline the Prince to a preference for the latter course; but they would wish you to impress upon him their advice that he

should not delay the conclusion of peace by interposing difficulties in the progress of the negotiations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 174.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 46.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1877.

MR. MONSON, in his despatch No. 5 of the 1st instant, which passed through your Excellency's hands, mentions, with reference to the current rumours, that pressure was being brought to bear upon the refugees in Dalmatia by the Slav sympathizers to prevent them from returning peaceably to their homes, the fact, which appeared to him to be significant, of the recent selection by Baron Rodich of two persons, as President of the Dalmatian Diet and as Civil Governor of Ragusa, who are said to be notorious partizans of the insurgents.

I wish to direct your Excellency's special attention to this statement, as Her Majesty's Government cannot but regret the state of things which it discloses.

It is essential to the maintenance of peace that freedom of action should be preserved to the populations of the provinces which have been affected by the insurrection; if the restoration of tranquillity is prevented through fomentation of the insurrection by Slav sympathizers holding influential positions in Dalmatia under the Austro-Hungarian Government, it cannot be expected that the efforts of the Powers for pacification will meet with success.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 175.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 6. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, February* 4, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 264 of the 24th December last, inclosing copies of my correspondence with Prince Nicholas respecting the alleged mutilation of wounded Turks by Montenegrins, I have the honour to state that the "Glas Czrnagora" of yesterday publishes a letter addressed by an inhabitant of Podgoritza to a friend at Cettigné, giving an account of the manner in which, by the order of Hussein Pasha, the faces of some of the unburried dead (Turkish soldiers) at Fundina had been recently mutilated and disfigured, in order to prove to three English surgeons that the charges of atrocities made against the Montenegrins were not unfounded.

I had a long conversation with the Prince this morning respecting the subject in general, and the truth of this account in particular.

His Highness had seen the original letter, of the genuineness of which he is entirely persuaded, although the risk, or rather the certainty, of the vengeance to which the writer would be exposed on the part of the Turks could he be identified, renders the suppression of his name imperative.

As I had heard from a very trustworthy source that his Highness had expressed himself as much pained at the readiness with which the stories of Montenegrin outrages had been accepted by the European, and especially by the English, press; and had even shown some sensitiveness at the persistency with which I had urged the subject upon his attention, I told him this morning that in my opinion the official correspondence which I had had with him on the subject ought to be considered by him as a matter of congratulation, inasmuch as it had given him a good opportunity of publishing the real state of the case.

The Prince agreed with me, and renewed the declaration of his determination to prevent the commission of any outrages by his people, saying that he fully appreciated his responsibility in this respect, and would spare no pains to ensure the execution of the orders he had issued, which, however, he firmly believed his people would not think of disobeying.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 176.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

(No. 113.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 8, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of the Imperial Rescript, or Hatt, which was issued on the installation of the new Grand Vizier, and of which I have already transmitted a digest in my despatch No. 106 of the 4th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Extract from "La Turquie" of February 7, 1877.

HATT IMPÉRIAL.—VOICI la traduction officielle du Hatt Impérial lu, Lundi dernier, à la Sublime Porte, à l'occasion de la nomination du nouveau Grand-Vézir:—

"Mon illustre Vézir Edhem Pacha,

"Ayant pris en considération les besoins de l'époque et la situation nouvelle de notre Empire, nous avons établi, de notre propre initiative, la Constitution, qui, par ses résultats heureux, doit inspirer à tous le respect et la confiance, et assurer le salut de notre pays.

"La réalisation de ce but dépend, d'une part, de la conduite des fonctionnaires publics de tous les degrés de la hiérarchie administrative qui sont tenus de ne point s'écarter des limites de leurs attributions, de ne pas enfreindre les dispositions de la loi, et d'autre part, de l'exécution loyale de toutes les mesures qui sont essentielles pour le maintien du principe d'égalité que nous avons proclamée en faveur de tous nos sujets.

"En conséquence, des changements importants dans le Ministère et dans le personnel administratif, chargé de l'application de ces mesures, étaient devenus nécessaires. La retraite et l'éloignement de Midhat Pacha ayant été rendus nécessaires par quelques circonstances qui se sont produites et qui sont prévues par la Constitution, nous venons, conformément aux dispositions de cette Charte et vu la confiance que nous inspirent vos capacités, vous investir de la charge de Grand-Vézir. La Constitution ayant prescrit la décentralisation administrative et la réforme de l'organisation provinciale, le traitement affecté aux Caïmacams des cazas devra être augmenté d'une manière suffisante, et un choix judicieux devra présider à la nomination de ces fonctionnaires comme à celle des Mutessarifs. Ces nominations seront soumises à notre approbation et un projet de loi sera présenté à cet effet à la Chambre des Députés.

"Nos affaires intérieures devant acquérir une plus grande extension, l'ancien Ministère de l'Intérieur est rétabli et devra se mettre en rapport direct avec les autorités provinciales. Djevdet Pacha, Ministre de la Justice, qui réunit l'expérience des affaires et les aptitudes nécessaires, est nommé Ministre de l'Intérieur.

"Attendu que les projets de loi qui découlent de la Constitution doivent être élaborés sans retard pour être soumis à la Chambre des Députés, qui se réunira bientôt, les attributions de la présidence du Conseil d'Etat acquièrant une importance plus grande, nous avons nommé à ce poste Kadry Bey, Préfet de la ville, en l'élevant au rang de Vézir.

"Assym Pacha, Vali d'Andrinople, est nommé Ministre de la Justice.

"Les Vilayets d'Andrinople et du Danube, offrant aujourd'hui une importance spéciale, il était urgent que des fonctionnaires d'une capacité reconnue soient appelés à la tête de leur administration. A cet effet, Sadik Pacha, notre Ambassadeur à Paris, est nommé Vali de la Province du Danube et Ali Pacha, ex-Vali de l'Herzégovine, est nommé Vali d'Andrinople.

"Nous avons également confié à Olmuès Effendi (Tchamitch), Membre du Conseil d'Etat, qui possède les connaissances spéciales, le Ministère du Commerce et de l'Agriculture, en l'élevant au rang de Bala.

"Ahmed Moukhtar Pacha, actuellement Vali de Crète, est nommé Commandant-en-chef du 4me Corps d'Armée, en remplacement de Saaïb Pacha, qui est appelé au Gouvernement Général de Candie.

"Un des moyens qui concourent le plus à assurer la bonne gestion des affaires dans les différents Départements Administratifs, c'est l'assistance que peuvent prêter à nos Ministres des Conseillers capables et instruits. Pour l'amélioration de nos finances, nous

avons déjà décidé de prendre les conseils d'hommes spéciaux que nous attendons d'Europe.

"Hourchid Pacha, Gouverneur-Général d'Alep, est nommé Conseiller du Grand-Vézirat et Président de la Commission chargée de proposer le choix des Caïmacams. Cette Commission sera formée de Conseillers des Départements Ministériels et de Conseillers d'Etat.

"Rifiat Pacha, ex-Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet du Danube, est nommé en la même qualité à Alep.

"Costaki Bey, Président du sixième Cercle Municipal, est nommé Conseiller du Ministère de l'Intérieur.

"Ohannès Effendi (Sakis), Président de la Cour d'Appel de Constantinople, est nommé Conseiller du Ministère de l'Instruction Publique.

"Vous savez que le mode établi par l'Article 77 de la Constitution pour le choix et la nomination du Président de la Chambre des Députés sera mis en vigueur seulement à partir de l'année prochaine.

"L'Article 65 de la Constitution prescrit que le nombre des Députés sera fixé à raison du chiffre de la population.

"La Présidence provisoire pour cette année de la Chambre des Députés, qui sera régie par les dispositions de l'instruction provisoire mentionnée dans l'Article 119 de la Charte, est confiée à Ahmet Véfik Effendi, dont la droiture de caractère, la loyauté et la capacité pour diriger les débats Parlementaires, sont universellement reconnues.

"L'ex-Ministre du Commerce, Halet Pacha, est nommé membre du Sénat et l'ex-Conseiller du Grand Vézirat, Saïd Effendi, est nommé membre du Conseil d'Etat.

"Nous voulons que vous vous mettiez immédiatement à l'œuvre pour assurer l'exécution de ces ordres, la bonne et prompte gestion des affaires. Vous ferez élaborer sans retard tous les projets de loi qui dérivent de la Constitution. Vous appliquerez toutes les réformes que les circonstances rendent nécessaires et vous soumettrez au plus tôt à notre haute approbation toutes les décisions qu'elles réclament.

"Que les Très-Haut daigne accorder le succès à nos efforts."

Les journaux Turcs de ce matin publient la communication officielle suivante:—

"Ainsi qu'il résulte du Hatt Impérial, promulgué à l'occasion du changement du Grand-Vézir, Sa Majesté le Sultan, soucieux d'assurer la prospérité de ses peuples d'une manière solide et conforme aux exigences de l'époque, a proclamé, de sa pleine initiative, la Constitution qui garantit à tous les sujets une parfaite égalité et substitue le régime parlementaire au régime absolu.

"L'adoption de ce régime crée pour l'Empire une nouvelle ère, dont les bienfaits et les résultats heureux ne peuvent être obtenus qu'à la condition que tous les fonctionnaires, grands et petits, et tous les sujets consacrent leurs efforts à respecter la Charte et à se conformer à ses dispositions. C'est là un devoir sacré pour tous.

"Malgré cela, l'ex-Grand-Vézir Midhat Pacha, inclinait vers une voie tout à fait contraire à l'esprit de la Constitution.

"Pendant que le Sultan, abandonnant de ses droits souverains, abolissait le régime absolu, certains actes se sont produits, indiquant que ce pouvoir absolu, aboli par le Sultan, serait exercé par d'autres mains. Profitant de cette situation, quelques individus, à tête légère, ont formé des projets malveillants contre les prérogatives du Sultan et la tranquillité publique, projets qui se traduisaient par des menées secrètes, corroborées même par des actes. Bien que Midhat Pacha eût dû, par sa position, prendre des mesures pour empêcher le mal, tout au contraire, il a négligé et a fermé les yeux, de sorte que le régime abrogé était exercé sous une autre forme.

"Pour ces motifs, il a été nécessaire, en conformité de l'Article 113 de la Constitution, de l'éloigner de l'Empire.

"Cette décision ayant été prise par le Souverain dans le but spécial et bien précisé de sauvegarder ses droits ainsi que l'esprit et la lettre de la Constitution, le Gouvernement s'empresse d'annoncer au public la vérité sur cet événement afin de l'éclairer et de le mettre ainsi en garde contre toute fausse interprétation."

No. 177.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February* 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 14 *Février*, 1877.

LE Prince du Monténégro vient de télégraphier de nouveau à son Altesse le Grand Vizir pour insister sur le choix de Vienne comme pouvant présenter des avantages pour la promptitude et l'efficacité des négociations.

Nous avons répondu au Prince que la Sublime Porte, désirant entamer les négociations un moment plus tôt, laisse à son choix de désigner une localité convenable, soit du côté de Scutari, soit du côté de l'Herzégovine, pour la réunion des Délégués.

Les raisons qui ne nous permettent pas d'accéder à la demande du Prince sont connues de vous.

Nous espérons que Son Altesse, appréciant les facilités que nous lui accordons, n'hésitera plus à accepter notre nouvelle proposition et à conclure la paix avant l'expiration prochaine de l'armistice.

No. 178.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 15, 1877.

THE following is from Monson: "Grand Vizier telegraphed last night that Vienna is unsuitable, and that the Porte left to His Highness the choice of another place of meeting on the side of Scutari or on that of the Herzegovina. The Prince replied after midnight that as it could not be Vienna he proposed to choose Cattaro as the place most suitable with reference to the views of the Porte."

No. 179.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

I TOLD the Russian Ambassador yesterday that as circumstances had changed since the receipt of the Russian Circular of the 19th ultimo, Her Majesty's Government, after giving it their best consideration, with an earnest desire to meet the views of the Emperor in a friendly and conciliatory spirit, had determined that it would be better to defer their reply to it until events should have developed themselves, and it was seen what was the effect of the change of Government at Constantinople, both with reference to the new administrative reforms and the negotiations for peace between the Porte and Montenegro and Servia.

No. 180.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

MR. GLADSTONE has moved for the following Return for the House of Commons:—

Of the dates, numbers, and particulars of judicial sentences, first, pronounced; secondly, executed, since the rising in Bulgaria down to the present time.

First. On persons charged with complicity in the rising.

Secondly. On persons charged with the perpetration of outrages or other misconduct in its suppression, or subsequently in relation thereto.

Tell Mr. Baring to furnish this at once, with any additional particulars he can give.

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* Repeated to Embassies and Belgrade.

No. 181.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

Belgrade, February 15, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
PRINCELY Decree appoints 20th instant for the elections, and 26th for the meeting of the Grand National (enlarged Skouptchina) Assembly.

No. 182.

The Earl of Derby to M. Gennadius.

Foreign Office, February 15, 1877.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,
I HAVE the honour to inform you that I caused inquiry to be made as to the nature of the outrage committed at Beloustra, to which you drew my attention by order of your Government on the 29th ultimo, and I am happy to be able to state that there does not appear to have been an attack made by the Mahommedans upon the Greek population of the place, as reported by the Greek Consul at Cavallo, but disturbances would seem to have arisen through an attack made by Albanian brigands on the house of one Panayontie, who is said to have been wounded, and his wife and son to have been murdered.
Numerous arrests appear to have been made, but the outrage is not considered to be connected with any local, political, or religious movement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 183.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, February 15, 1877.

(No. 37.)
My Lord,
THE Russian Ambassador having called upon me on the 14th instant, I took the opportunity of speaking to his Excellency respecting the Circular despatch from Prince Gortchakow of the 19th ultimo, of which he had been good enough to communicate a copy to me on the 5th instant. I said that since that Circular was written, circumstances had changed, and that Her Majesty's Government, after giving it their best consideration, with an earnest desire to meet the views of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor in a friendly and conciliatory spirit, had determined that it would be better to defer their reply to it until events should have developed themselves, and it was seen what was the effect of the recent change of Government at Constantinople, both in reference to the administrative reforms which had been promised, and the negotiations for peace now pending between the Porte and Servia and Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 184.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

Belgrade, February 15, 1877, 9 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I TRUST your Lordship will have reason to be satisfied with result of Turco-Servian negotiation so far as conducted here. Ground satisfactorily broken; points of difference reduced, and peace party here greatly strengthened.

No. 185.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

Cettigné, February 15, 1877, 11 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE spoken to Prince Nicholas in the sense of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday. His Highness will not consent to commence negotiations on Turkish soil, although if the Porte had agreed to begin them at Vienna he would have made but little difficulty about continuing them afterwards at Constantinople. He assures me that Servia is pledged not to make definitive peace without previous understanding with Montenegro. The fact is that the Prince is persuaded that he can afford to wait.

No. 186.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 22.)
(Decypher.)
Tiflis, February 6, 1877.

My Lord,
GUNS at Poti mentioned in despatch No. 19 were more or less as I reported in that despatch, but I am told that now there are eight large mortars and two guns on the island. A number of troops are reported as having left this for Kutais, but I do not as yet know how many. Matters in Daghistan are, it is reported, not altogether as quiet as it is generally represented. Warlike preparations still continued. Some troops have left Poti, but where gone I cannot say. Total militia on frontier said to be 10,000. They are without drill and useless. Despatches Nos. 20 and 21 go by hand to Poti.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. R. RICKETTS.

No. 187.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

Scutari, February 4, 1877.

(No. 7.)
My Lord,
IN my despatch to Sir Henry Elliot, No. 81 of the 31st December last, copy of which I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship on the same day in my despatch No. 92, I mentioned that an impression prevailed here that my Italian colleague, M. Berio, was no stranger to the revolutionary intrigues going on in North Albania.
M. Berio has now informed me that he has been questioned on the subject by his Government, and that he has been able to explain that, although he has had complete knowledge of the intercourse maintained between Montenegro and the Mirdite Chiefs, he has been always careful to keep personally clear of affairs of so compromising a nature.
He assures me that he possesses written proof of the manner in which an offensive and defensive Treaty was concluded between Prince Nicholas and the Mirdites last autumn, and by which the former bound himself to furnish the latter, on their raising the standard of revolt, with 80,000 fr., 5 battalions of Montenegrins, and about 15,000 rifles. The negotiations that led to this arrangement were principally conducted by M. Speyer, whilst acting as Russian Consul here, and the Rev. Don Primo.
M. Berio expresses himself as being much annoyed with a presumed attempt of the Russian Agents to draw attention off from themselves by making it appear that he is engaged in these intrigues.
In proof of the correctness of his statements M. Berio has shown me the copy of a letter recently sent here by Prenk Bib Doda for the Russian Consulate, and of which the inclosed is a translation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 187.

Letter from Prenk Bib Doda.

Orosci, January 24, 1877.

(Translation.)

I BEG you to telegraph to Prince Nicholas the following:—

"A body of troops stationed at Puka has decided to attack the Christians who are united with the Mirdites. Dibra, Mattea, Tirana, and the troops at Alessio have received orders to attack the Mirdites and the neighbouring Christian tribes. If war has not yet occurred in Puka a conflict is imminent. The Mirdite people have run to their help, so there is no more possibility of leaning on further temporisings. In order to meet a general attack from all sides, there is the greatest need for Montenegro to make a diversion, and for the promised arms and ammunition to be sent as quickly as possible by the route that will be indicated, as they are absolutely necessary. In any case let cartridges for flint-lock guns be sent at once. Sure of the assistance of our ally, and in expectation of an early reply."

(Signed) PRINCE PRENK.

No. 188.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 8.)

Scutari, February 5, 1877.

My Lord,

AS I have had the honour of informing your Lordship by telegraph, the state of affairs in Mirdicia is daily becoming more embroiled, and although I have not ceased from urging both the Commander-in-chief and the Governor-General to adopt the only practical course for arriving at a satisfactory arrangement, I have been unable to hide from myself the fact that these authorities, whilst pretending to have at heart the welfare of the populations placed under their jurisdiction, are all the time only thinking of their own private interests, and are probably hiding from the Porte the real state of affairs, in order not to open a door for other Pashas to be sent to replace them.

Nevertheless, in the hope that the march of events will force these functionaries to abandon a selfish policy, I have solicited your Lordship's permission to be prepared, on the occasion arising, to use my good offices to bring about a meeting between the authorities and the Mirdite Chieftain, Prenk Bib Doda.

From the inclosed copy and translation of a letter which has been addressed by Prenk Bib Doda to Dervish and Mustafa Pashas, and which was communicated by him to the Consuls of Austria, France, and Italy, by identic letters, of which I also have the honour to furnish herein a translation, it is evident that, though the Mirdites are using pressure against the Government, they are still prepared to come to terms with it.

It is to be most earnestly hoped that the Turkish authorities will not persist in endeavouring to frighten the Mirdites into submission by stirring up the religious feelings of the Albanian Mahommedan feudal proprietors of the districts surrounding Mirdicia, for, in that case, the threat contained in Prenk Bib Doda's letter to the Consuls (Inclosures Nos. 3 and 4), of his people becoming the assailants instead of the assailed may very possibly be realized. The assertion of Prenk Bib Doda that massacres of the Christians have been planned are based, I think, more on a knowledge of the will of the Moslems than on a belief in the possibility of their being successfully carried out.

The Russian Consul and I have not been favoured with letters from the Mirdite Chieftain, as he evidently shares the conviction of his co-religionists in North Albania that those who are not Roman Catholics are not Christians, and, therefore, cannot take an impartial view of passing events here.

The Government at Constantinople would do well to send immediate orders to Scutari for a conciliatory policy to be pursued, especially as this course is almost certain of success, the Mirdites having, I am confidentially informed, received notice from Montenegro to come to terms, if possible, with the Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 188.

Prenk Bib Doda to Dervish Pasha and Mustafa Pasha.

Orosci, January 31, 1877.

(Translation.)

FROM exact information which has lately reached me, it results that the Kolas (captain) commanding the troops stationed in the small fortress of Puka (perhaps on the advice and at the instigation of the Turks of the said tribe) has several times summoned the Christians of the same place through Ali Agha of Puka, the Hodja of Puka and Osman Lacci, to deliver themselves up at discretion in his hands, for, otherwise, their villages would be taken by assault.

Alarmed by such menaces, and fearing an early massacre, owing to the thousand extraordinary reports that the Turks of Puka itself were circulating in this sense, they turned for help to their neighbours of Mirdicia, allied to them by many ties of relationship, by race, and by religion. These, as is the custom in these mountains, rushed to the appeal of their relatives and co-religionists, and from this arose an assemblage which finished, as I am assured, by the closing of the high-road.

No sooner had I heard of it than I did all that in me lay to avoid evils which might degenerate into scenes of blood, and I sent courier after courier in order to pacify the greatly exasperated minds in these mountains, when last night were brought to me M. Zeinel Bey, of Antivari, together with the son of Ismail Agha Krüesui, under condition that I should hold them as hostages until the known Mirdite, Mark Gion Nozza, who has been detained for the last six months in the Scutari prison, had been liberated.

Finding myself in such a dangerous situation, I decided upon giving my word that Mark Gion Nozza shall be placed in liberty, and that Zeinel Bey, and his companion, shall remain my guests until this is accomplished, and I advised that travellers on the high-road should not be molested, as everything, in time, would be smoothed over. It appears to me, therefore, that I have acted according to the wishes of your Excellencies, and of every good servant of His Majesty the Sultan; but I must observe to your Excellencies that it is necessary for you to force the Kolas (captain) of the garrison of Puka and Mussulman population of the same place, not to conduct themselves in the irritating manner in which they acted up to the present time, and which might lead to a fratricidal and, what is worse, a religious struggle.

I await with anxiety the orders and instructions of your Excellencies, sure that you, in your wisdom, will give me such directions as will dissipate the danger, and will find the means calculated to prevent the occurrence of similar scenes. The Mirdite people, Excellencies, has always been the model of fidelity towards the Imperial Ottoman Government; it will never learn to forget the devotion which is due to it (the Government); but, I permit myself to state to you, that it would be well to cancel from the mind of this people even the doubt of a massacre of its co-religionist brethren—massacres only too much prognosticated and openly declared by the great tribes of Dibra and Mattia.

Pray, &c.

(Signed) PRENK BIB DODA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 188.

Prenk Bib Doda to M. Wassich.

(Translation.)

Orosci, February 2, 1877.

Most esteemed Mr. Consul,

FROM the herein inclosed copy you will understand the actual position Mirdicia and the Christian populations in its neighbourhood.

It seems almost incredible, but still it is too true, that the Turks are hatching a project for the general massacre of the Albanian Christians. The Mussulmans of Puka, Midizü, Dibra, Mathia, Prisrend, Jacova, &c., have declared it in clear notes and the Kolas (captain) of the small fortress of Puka, luckily, waited to send it, probably under the suggestions of his superior authorities. The minds of these populations are exasperated to the utmost degree, and to keep them back up to the present all my power has been necessary, and all the influence of those persons who love and are anxious for quiet. However, I must confess openly that, come what may, this people is prepared and resolved to make a desperate resistance, and that, perhaps, from one day to the other, instead of being the attacked it will become the attacker to secure its own preservation. My position

is very dangerous in times so terrible, and it is for this reason that I ask for the advice and protection of all the European Christian Powers.

Sure that I shall never see myself without the support and goodwill of Austria-Hungary, and all the civilized Governments and peoples who abhor the scenes of blood and the horrors committed by the Turks in Bulgaria, now prepared for the populations here, I have, &c.

(Signed) PRENK BIB DODA.

No. 189.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February* 16.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 14 *Février*, 1877.

LE Chargé d'Affaires d'Angleterre nous a communiqué un télégramme par lequel Lord Derby l'invite à sonder les dispositions du Ministère Impérial en ce qui touche l'application des réformes proposées par la Conférence et acceptées par la Sublime Porte. Vous pouvez affirmer à sa Seigneurie que le Gouvernement Impérial est plus que jamais résolu à mettre intégralement à exécution les réformes qu'il a déjà proclamées. Nous ne reculerons devant aucun sacrifice, devant aucune difficulté pour remplir cette tâche. Ce que nous demandons c'est qu'on nous laisse faire, c'est qu'on nous épargne des complications extérieures. Qu'on ait confiance dans la sincérité et dans la loyauté de nos intentions, et qu'on ne tente pas à précipiter nos efforts. On créerait ainsi au Gouvernement des embarras qui ne pourraient que le distraire de ses préoccupations tendant à réformer l'organisation intérieure du pays.

Déjà la Sublime Porte a demandé d'urgence à ses autorités provinciales des données exactes sur la circonscription des communes. Une fois ces renseignements acquis, il sera procédé sans retard aux subdivisions cantonales. En outre, le règlement concernant la nouvelle gendarmerie, qui sera composée de Musulmans et de Chrétiens, est déjà prête, et l'on n'attend plus pour organiser ce corps que les officiers instructeurs. Quant aux troupes irrégulières, il a été décidé de ne pas les employer à l'avenir, à moins d'une nécessité inévitable. Le port d'armes sans autorisation spéciale étant aussi désormais prohibé, les autorités Impériales viennent de recevoir des instructions catégoriques en conséquence.

La Sublime Porte a, de plus, pris les dispositions nécessaires pour ne pas permettre à l'avenir la colonisation en Roumélie de Circassiens en masse. Enfin, le Sultan, notre auguste Maître, a daigné prendre sous sa protection l'Ecole Civile de Constantinople destinée à former des employés pour l'Administration. Cette école sera réorganisée aux frais de Sa Majesté, en attendant la création de nouvelles institutions de ce genre.

Toutes ces mesures et une foule d'autres témoignent de la ferme volonté du Gouvernement Impérial d'appliquer les nouvelles réformes.

Pour ce qui est des négociations de paix avec la Servie et le Monténégro, elles se poursuivent activement.

Votre Excellence peut assurer en même temps Lord Derby que la Commission Spéciale procède sans relâche au jugement des individus impliqués dans les derniers événements de Philippopoli.

No. 190.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February* 16.)

(Télégraphique.)
(Officieuse et Confidentielle.) *Constantinople, le* 15 *Février*, 1877.

ON nous assure que de grands préparatifs de guerre se poursuivent depuis quelque temps en Dalmatie et en Croatie. Aux démarches que nous avons faites auprès de lui, le Cabinet de Vienne a répondu par assurances très catégoriques. D'autre part, cependant, d'après nos informations, les armements ne discontinuent pas et créent une situation de plus en plus menaçante. Vous voudrez bien trouver une occasion pour en entretenir officieusement Lord Derby et chercher à connaître si ses propres informations sont de nature à confirmer celles qui nous sont transmises par nos autorités frontières. A cette occasion, je crois devoir vous signaler, à titre d'information, le langage très belliqueux tenu par le Consul-Général de Russie à Sérajévo dans une entrevue avec le Gouverneur-Général de Bosnie. A en entendre cet Agent, nous serions à la veille d'une guerre avec la Russie.

No. 191.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 16.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, February* 16, 1877.

GERMAN Government will follow the example of Her Majesty's Government in regard to Russian Circular, and defer their reply for the same reasons as those telegraphed yesterday to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh by your Lordship.

No. 192.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 16, 1877.

I HAVE acquainted Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs with the reasons reported in your Excellency's telegram of yesterday which you had given to the Russian Ambassador for deferring the reply of Her Majesty's Government to the Russian Circular of the 31st ultimo.

His Excellency said that Count Andrassy had not yet come to any decision as to how or when he would answer the Circular, apparently from a wish to learn in the first instance the views of other Governments, and the influence which events might have upon the question.

No. 193.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 16, 1 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Constantinople, February* 16, 1877, 11 A.M.

MILITARY Attaché hears that two Russians, General Coukocazene and M. Ismailoff, of Railway Department, went to Bucharest on the 8th ultimo, and communicated confidentially with MM. Laguillour and Manega, of the Roumanian Railways, about transportation of 40,000 Russians to Barbosi, 40,000 to Giurgevo, and not less than 80,000 to Turno-Severin at rate of 10,000 a-day.

Russians said 165 locomotives and 800 waggons could be obtained from Warsaw line by way of Lemberg.

It was decided to lay rails with the English gauge from Jassy to left bank of Pruth.

It was arranged also that artillery projectiles could be made at Roumanian Railway Works.

Sir L. Simmons and Consulate-General at Bucharest might inquire, but it should not be known that this information, which is "Very Confidential," comes from Constantinople.

No. 194.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, February* 16, 1877, 7·30 P.M.

IN consequence of the objection raised by the Grand Vizier to the selection of Cattaro as the place of negotiation, the Prince has this morning telegraphed to His Highness that, as a proof of his conciliatory disposition and of his desire to further the views of the Porte, he will send his Delegates by the first steamer to Constantinople.

No. 195.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, February 16, 1877, 10 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of this day, reporting the final consent of the Prince to treat at Constantinople, His Highness requests me to state that he has been greatly influenced by his desire to comply with wishes of Her Majesty's Government, and he hopes that your Lordship will take this into consideration, and urge the Porte to treat him with generosity.

I undertook to convey the Prince's request to your Lordship, with the clear understanding that I could make no promise. I hope, however, that the Porte is inclined to offer terms of a nature to content Montenegro.

No. 196.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 9. Political.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, February 6, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch, and its inclosure, of the 5th instant, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, reporting on the state of affairs in Syria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 196.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Beyrout, February 5, 1877.*

WITH reference to my recent despatches to his Excellency Sir Henry Elliot, I have the honour to inform you that the news of the termination of the Conference without arriving at any conclusive result, and the departure from Constantinple of the Ambassadors of the Great Powers, have considerably increased the feeling of anxiety and uneasiness which has prevailed for some time past amongst the populations of Syria, and all are at a loss to conceive as to what will result from the present complication.

The general feeling, however, of all classes is in favour of the Government, which is receiving support from quarters whence it was little to be expected, and the Mussulmans are supporting the exhaustive drain upon their strength in the way of men with exemplary patience, notwithstanding the intense suffering that is entailed by the withdrawal of so many bread winners from the support of their families who are becoming pauperised.

For your information I have the honour to inclose a copy of a report from Mr. Vitale, British Vice-Consul at Lattakia, on the state of affairs in his district which needs no comment from me. At Sidon the alarm of the Christians at the aggressive attitude of the Mussulmans continues to increase, and several families are preparing to leave the town to take refuge in the mountains should no improvement take place, which is not to be wondered at when it is remembered that on all similar occasions during the present century the Mussulmans of Sidon have been amongst the first to rise on their Christian neighbours.

At Tripoli also similar preparations are being made to quit the town in case of necessity, and at both these places the inhabitants of the neighbouring districts of Mount Lebanon are insulted and ill-treated whenever they venture into them, which they naturally do as seldom as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 196.

Vice-Consul Vitalé to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Lattaquié, le 30 Janvier, 1877.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous soumettre ce rapport pour vous informer de la situation en ce district et des sentiments de ses habitants depuis la promulgation de la Constitution Ottomane, dont la nouvelle a été donnée en cette ville par les autorités civiles sans le cérémonial que d'usage l'on observe à l'occasion des solemnités de cette importance.

Le télégramme annonçant ce grand événement a été lu ici en présence des employés du Gouvernement et de quelques notables de la ville qui se sont limités à dire qu'ils obéissent à la volonté du Souverain.

J'ai remarqué que la nouvelle elle-même n'a pas produit l'effet attendu ; la plupart des Musulmans croyant que cette Constitution est jusqu'à un certain point contraire à la loi sacrée du Coran, en ont reçu la nouvelle avec regret et il y en a qui ont dit qu'ils auraient aimé mieux entendre la nouvelle de la déclaration de la guerre avec la Russie ; tandis que les Chrétiens, habitués à ne pas prêter foi aux promesses du Gouvernement en ce qui regarde l'amélioration de leur sort et leur mise sur le même pied d'égalité avec les Turcs, ont reçu cette nouvelle avec indifférence. Même, il y en a parmi eux qui en regrettent l'apparition, croyant que toute mesure de ce genre de la part de la Sublime Porte ne fait que réveiller les sentiments de haine dont les Musulmans sont animés à leur égard.

Les Ansaryéhs n'étant pas capables d'apprécier ou de juger de cet événement n'en font aucun cas. Je puis dire, cependant, qu'ils se réjouissent (surtout ceux de la montagne) des difficultés éprouvées par le Gouvernement du Sultan, parcequ'ils échappent ainsi à toute sorte d'imposition et aux mauvais traitements qu'ils subissent ordinairement par les cavaliers. Aussi, ils ne payent pas maintenant les impôts et ne fournissent pas leur contingent de Rédifs au bataillon de deuxième classe enrôlé dernièrement.

Malgré tout ce qui précède je suis heureux de pouvoir attester, M. le Consul-Général, que la tranquillité règne en cette ville et que malgré l'enrôlement de deux bataillons de rédifs, dont le dernier, composé de 1,400 hommes environ, depuis bientôt neuf mois il n'y a rien en ici qui puisse inquiéter, à part quelques incidents sans importance.

Malheureusement il n'en est pas ainsi dans tout le district ; la montagne est dans un état d'anarchie complète, et il n'y a point de sécurité. Je ne crois pas, cependant, que cela pourrait avoir aucune influence sur la sécurité de la ville-même.

Mais les Chrétiens en général sont beaucoup intimidés et presque tous croient qu'une catastrophe est inévitable sur l'un ou l'autre point de l'Empire et qu'alors ils seront dans un très-grand danger ; ils croient aussi qu'en cas d'une guerre avec la Russie ils seront exposés à des outrages, sinon à des massacres, de la part des Musulmans ; ils se réjouissent chaque fois qu'ils apprennent que des bâtiments de guerre se trouvent ou sont attendus sur la côte de Syrie, parcequ'ils croient que l'apparition de tels bâtiments forcera les Musulmans de rester tranquilles. En ceci ils ont raison, parceque je crois que les visites des bâtiments de Sa Majesté le "Research" et le "Torch" pendant l'été dernier ont beaucoup contribué au maintient du bon ordre et de la tranquillité dont jouit encore cette ville.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) N. VITALE.

No. 197.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 10. Political.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, February 6, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that Kiamil Pasha, who, since September last, has held the post of Mutasserif of Beyrout, has been promoted to the rank of Mushir, and appointed Governor-General of the newly created Vilayet of Kossova.

His Excellency leaves for Constantinople to-morrow by the Austrian steamer which was due at Beyrout yesterday.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE

No. 198.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 7. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, February 7, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2 of the 1st instant, respecting the overtures made by the Porte, I have the honour to inclose copies of the telegrams since exchanged between the Grand Vizier and Prince Nicholas with regard to entering into direct negotiations for peace between Turkey and Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 198.

The Grand Vizier to the Prince of Montenegro.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 5 Février, 1877.*

EN réponse au télégramme de Votre Altesse, en date du 31 Janvier, j'ai l'honneur de l'informer que la base des négociations à entamer sera le *statu quo ante—statu quo ante** sauf rectification sur certaines parties de la frontière, et entente définitive sur les propositions précédemment faites par Votre Altesse.

Si Votre Altesse partage le désir de la Sublime Porte, je la prierais de vouloir bien envoyer à Constantinople un Agent dûment autorisé pour traiter avec nous.

Inclosure 2 in No. 198.

The Prince of Montenegro to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, le 7 Février, 1877.*

EN réponse au télégramme de votre Altesse du 5 courant, je m'empresse de l'informer que je suis en effet disposé à traiter de la paix avec la Sublime Porte sur les bases du *status quo ante bellum*, avec une modification de la ligne des frontières.

Votre Altesse parle de propositions antérieures, faites à la Sublime Porte, au sujet de ce dernier point. N'ayant pas eu l'occasion de formuler de demandes, je présume que votre Altesse fait allusion aux projets formés dans la Conférence préliminaire des Six Puissances à Constantinople.

Dans cette supposition je me déclare prêt à entrer immédiatement en négociations; mais, pour la bonne et prompte marche de celles-ci, je crois infiniment préférable qu'elles aient lieu à Vienne par l'intermédiaire de l'Ambassadeur Ottoman.

J'attends une réponse favorable de votre Altesse pour déléguer et expédier un délégué muni de mes pouvoirs.

No. 199.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 8. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, February 8, 1877.*

PRINCE NICHOLAS left Cettigné this morning to join the Princess and his children at the country residence at Onaluka. His Highness intends returning on the 12th.

Before his departure he arranged that his cousin, M. Bojo Petrovich, the President of the Senate, should go to Vienna to negotiate as soon as news should be received that the Porte consented to treat there.

Colonel Thömmel is the only foreign Agent here besides myself, Russia being represented by a young Secretary. The French Agent is at Scutari, and the German and Italian Agents are at Ragusa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

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* *Sic* dans la copie que le Prince a faite de sa propre main.—E. M.

No. 200.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 9. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, February 8, 1877.*

AZARIAN EFFENDI, Secretary to the Turkish Commander-in-chief in the Herzegovina, yesterday concluded a Convention with Prince Nicholas for the fresh provisioning of Nichsich. By this arrangement His Highness will himself send to the town 153,000 okes of provisions, the Turks in return undertaking to send, viâ Scutari, to Rieka, at the head of the lake, 1,200,000 okes for the use of the Montenegrins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 201.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 10. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, February 9, 1877.*

SINCE my arrival at Cettigné I have had repeated conversations with Prince Nicholas respecting the possibility of his coming to terms with the Porte.

His Highness, who at first seemed disposed to show himself very unyielding, has ended by holding more moderate and conciliatory language. His first impulse was to send to the Porte a categorical statement of his fixed determination to listen to no propositions which did not contain as the minimum to be conceded to him all the territorial aggrandizement originally proposed at Constantinople by the Six Powers. He was, however, persuaded to delay his reply, and calm reflection induced him to agree to the despatch of a telegram in much more moderate terms. The text of this telegram is transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 7 of the 7th instant; and although, when His Highness read it to me before sending it, I still saw some objection to the wording, there had been so much delay and difficulty already in getting him to expunge the reference to the minimum, that I thought it as well to make no further remark.

The Prince is much puzzled at the meaning of the reported disgrace of Midhat Pasha, the news of which no one here has received officially, but which is understood to be true. His Highness has recurred again and again to the subject with me, and expressed great anxiety as to what this event may portend.

I have, &c.
(Signé) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 202.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 32. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cairo, February 8, 1877.*

THE news of the fall of Midhat Pasha has caused much surprise and disappointment here.

The Viceroy and the Turkish Pashas at the head of affairs, who are in constant communication with Constantinople, believed or professed to believe, that the reforms inaugurated by Midhat Pasha were really serious; that they were to be the commencement of a new era which would give a fresh lease of life to the Ottoman Empire; and they were proud of a policy which, in their eyes, was a dignified vindication in the face of Europe of the independence of the Turkish Empire, and a successful check to the ambitious designs of Russia.

Attributing Midhat's fall to the intrigues of the Sultan's Harem and the influence of Russian emissaries (for they ridicule the idea of his having really been concerned in a conspiracy against his Sovereign), they think it possible that his fall may provoke a revolution; but without him, they despair of the realization of their hopes of the regeneration of Turkey, or of her ever shaking herself clear from foreign, and above all, from Russian tutelage.

Such, so far as I can gather, are the views taken by the Turkish party here of an event which has evidently greatly disconcerted them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 203.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 38. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, February* 12, 1877.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 4th instant, stating that the effect produced here by the Russian Circular, the substance of which had been received that day, was that Russia had succeeded in securing the concurrence of Austria in designs against Turkey, I think it right to state that such was the first impression it made upon the mind of Count Tornielli, and that I have found, in subsequent conversation with M. Melegari, that it is likewise shared to a certain extent by his Excellency.

The grounds on which this surmise, for it can hardly be characterized as a decided opinion, is founded, seem to be, first, that it is not likely that Russia, under present circumstances, would speak as if she contemplated the idea of independent action unless she was assured of the attitude of Austria; and, secondly, if this supposition be correct, it is concluded that the reported agreement come to between the two Emperors at Rastadt, which it is here believed was only prevented being carried out by Count Andrassy's opposition at the time of General Soumarokoff's mission to Vienna, may now very probably be realized.

The Italian Foreign Office seem, too, to have been a good deal struck by the reports which they received of the unusually active intercourse between the Russian Ambassador at Vienna and Count Andrassy just previous to the issue of the Russian Circular.

Whatever may be the amount of truth in these conjectures, it is certain that the Italian Government look with considerable anxiety to Count Andrassy's remaining in power, as they consider him the only obstacle to an active alliance between Austria and Russia in the Slav interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 204.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 40. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, February* 13, 1877.

I HAVE had some further conversation with Count Tornielli on the subject of my despatch No. 38 of the 12th instant, and I find that, so far from the impression of there being an understanding between Austria and Russia for the occupation of the Turkish provinces having diminished, it has now assumed almost the proportions of a conviction.

I cannot, however, ascertain that there is any more positive data to go upon than that which is stated in my above-named despatch. I mentioned in that despatch that the Italian Government looked to Count Andrassy as the principal obstacle to the realization of the project in question; but I find that it is now thought that His Excellency has been gained over to the views which are attributed to the Emperor and the military party of Austria.

Amongst other questions I have asked Count Tornielli whether the Italian Government possessed certain information that at the interview at Reichstadt the Emperor of Austria had really consented to occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina in certain eventualities. His reply was that there was not the least doubt that a rectification of the Austrian frontier on the side of the Adriatic provinces of Turkey had been settled in principle.

Count Tornielli thinks that such an arrangement would be principally directed against Italy, and he proceeded to speak of the very grave consequences which its being carried into effect would have upon the future of this country.

Looking at it from a military point of view, he argues that as long as Austria possesses only the coast line of Dalmatia a fleet might always be able to cut off the communications of an Austrian army which might be menacing the opposite shore; but once in possession of the conterminous provinces, the communications of an Austrian army would be perfectly free and unattackable from the sea.

The whole coast of Italy from Venice to Brindisi would then become exposed, and Italy would have either to ruin herself in coast defences and military preparations, or else to follow a policy in subserviency to her powerful neighbours. Should the Ultramontane party get again the upper hand in Austria, no one could contend, he said, that the apprehended danger to Italy was imaginary.

It was a question for the consideration of the Powers, who had favoured the formation of the Italian kingdom, whether such a state of things would be desirable.

It was easy to show, Count Tornielli continued, that this question had a general interest for Europe as well as for Italy. In the first place, there could be no doubt that, though the Italian Government would not endeavour to oppose materially the accomplishment of the plan he was speaking of, the relations between Italy and the Austro-Hungarian Empire would undergo a very great change, public opinion would become excited, a feeling of discontent and irritation would be engendered, and Italy, instead of continuing to be, as she had always been since her formation, an element of peace and conciliation in Europe, would only be looking out in the same way as France for an opportunity of righting her position. He considered that the interests of Germany were bound up with those of Italy in this question, and he could not, therefore, understand the Cabinet of Berlin lending its sanction, if they had done so, to such arrangements. It was, he added, no feeling of jealousy of an ancient rival which produced the anxiety of the Italian Government on this question. It was a regard for the vital interests of the country. If Austria should extend her frontier towards the Danube, it would be a matter of perfect indifference to the Italian Government.

General Menabrea, Count Tornielli said, had been wrong when speaking to your Lordship in putting forward the agitation to be feared on the Trentino question as the first reason why Italy would object to Austria taking possession of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The real reasons were those he had just alluded to.

I could only say to Count Tornielli in reply that the intentions which he attributed to the Austro-Hungarian Government of an intention to annex Bosnia and Herzegovina were so completely at variance with what, from the official correspondence which had been sent to me, I had always understood to be the policy of Austria, as well as opposed to the interests of that Empire, that I could not but think that the Italian Government had perhaps formed an exaggerated opinion as to the danger impending; but I promised to report to your Lordship the substance of the observations he had made to me.

In reference to the subject in question, I may add that in speaking with my Austro-Hungarian colleagues at the Court ball last night, the conversation having incidentally turned upon the possibility of his Government being brought to annex the provinces alluded to, Baron Nameste stated in the most decided terms that they had no such views, and dwelt much on the difficulties and embarrasments which would be created for his country by the incorporation of these provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 205.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 42.)
My Lord, *Rome, February* 13, 1877.

THE Circular of Prince Gortchakow was communicated to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 9th instant, and I hear from his Excellency that he informed the Russian Ambassador that he considered it more consistent with the position of Italy, and the conciliatory part she had taken throughout all these transactions, that the Italian Government should not be one of the first to reply to this communication. Italy desired the maintenance of the agreement which had been established between the Powers and the solution of the Eastern difficulty by pacific means. It would not behove her, therefore, to take any hasty step which might have the effect of thwarting the objects she had in view

I conclude, therefore, that the Italian Government will not return any written reply to the Russian Circular until they have become acquainted with the replies which may be sent by the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 206.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 119.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 16, 1877.*

THE Duc Decazes came to see me this morning, and said that the Russian Circular of the 19th January had been already for some time past in the hands of the several Governments, and that the answers to it could hardly be postponed indefinitely.

I observed that the circumstances under which the Circular had been communicated to the Governments had been in some measure altered by the fall of Midhat Pasha, and that it would be well to wait to see what effect the change of Government at Constantinople might have with regard both to the administrative reforms and to the negotiations for peace with Servia and Montenegro.

The Duc Decazes answered that this change might in fact be a reason for further consideration, and that as Parliament had only just met in England, Her Majesty's Government might wish to test the feeling of the two Houses on the Eastern question before taking any further steps. Still courtesy to Russia would make it inexpedient that her communication should not remain too long without an answer.

I said that your Lordship had guarded against any susceptibility on the part of the Russian Government by expressing in a friendly message the earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government to meet the views of the Emperor Alexander in a cordial and conciliatory spirit, and by explaining the advantage of waiting until the results of the change of administration at the Porte should have developed themselves.

The Duc Decazes said that for his own part he did not think that the question of answering the Circular was so pressing, that a day or two sooner or later much signified; but that we must not forget that the armistice was drawing to a close. The Porte had not yet made peace with Servia, and with Montenegro even the preliminary question as to the place at which the negotiations were to be pursued did not seem to be settled. Now if the 1st of March found the Porte still at war with the two Principalities, Russia might very well turn round to the Powers of Europe, and after pointing out that she had warned them that nothing to forward their benevolent objects would be done by the Porte if left to itself, might declare that, for her own part, she could not stand quietly by and see a fresh attack on the the Principalities, and the bloodshed and misery which would be the consequence.

I said that it was impossible to be more alive than Her Majesty's Government were to the extreme importance of a speedy arrangement between the Porte and Servia and Montenegro, and that no effort had been spared by them to hasten the conclusion of a peace between them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 207.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 120. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 16, 1877.*

THE Duc Decazes spoke to me this morning of the interviews I had had with him on the 9th and 12th of this month, and observed that M. Thiers had professed to know what had passed at these interviews. He had in fact (he said) been told by an acquaintance of his, who was intimate with M. Thiers, that M. Thiers had declared that I had brought forward a proposal for settling the Eastern question, and that it had been rejected. The proposal was, according to M. Thiers, that the Porte should enter into a formal engagement with the Great Powers to observe faithfully the new Constitution.

I answered that I had seen something of the kind in the newspapers, but that I had treated it as simply absurd, because, as the Duke well knew, I had neither brought forward the specific proposal supposed to have been mentioned by M. Thiers, nor any proposal whatever.

The Duke said that in fact these statements attributed to M. Thiers had not the smallest resemblance to anything that had really passed between us.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 208.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 121. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 16, 1877.*

WITH reference to my Very Confidential despatches Nos. 100 and 104 of the 9th and 13th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Duc Decazes told me this morning that he had not yet written to the Marquis d'Harcourt on the subject of the restoration to Russia of the part of Bessarabia, of which she had been deprived by the Treaty of Paris, but that he should probably do so to-day.

His notion would, he said, be to mention in a letter to the Marquis d'Harcourt what he had said to me on this matter, and to add that as I had no doubt made a report to your Lordship on the subject, and your Lordship had not taken the idea up, it might be better to let it rest for the present.

I allowed the conversation on the subject to drop at this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 209.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 16, 1877, 7 P.M.*

I HAVE related to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the conversation of Count Tornielli, reported in No. 40, Most Confidential, of the 13th instant. His Excellency while admitting that the ideas expressed are in accordance with his own, regrets that anything should have been said on the subject at this moment, and begs that no notice whatever may be taken of it, his great object being to cultivate the best relations with Austria, and to avoid everything that might disturb them.

No. 210.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 17, 1877.*

FORWARD following to Monson:—

"With reference to your telegram of yesterday, Mr. Jocelyn has been instructed to use his good offices to bring about an agreement between Porte and Montenegro."

No. 211.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 17, 1877, 5·15 P.M.*

FOLLOWING received from Mr. Monson:—

"With reference to my telegram of this day, reporting the final consent of the Prince to treat at Constantinople, His Highness requests me to state that he has been greatly influenced by his desire to comply with wishes of Her Majesty's Government, and he hopes that your Lordship will take this into consideration, and urge the Porte to treat him with generosity. I undertook to convey the Prince's request to your Lordship with the clear understanding that I could make no promise. I hope, however, that the Porte is inclined to offer terms of a nature to content Montenegro."

I have to instruct you to use your good offices towards bringing about an agreement.

No. 212.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 17, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 17, 1877, 1·40 P.M.

GRAND VIZIER received last night from the Prince of Montenegro the assurance that he will at once send Delegates to treat at Constantinople. He looks upon this concession of His Highness as a consequence of the representations of Her Majesty's Government, and desires me to convey his sincere thanks to your Lordship.

With regard to Servia, he told me very confidentially that, in event of the two points regarding Agent at Belgrade and the position of Jews being very strongly insisted on by the Servian Agent, Porte would be found ready to beat an honourable retreat.

No. 213.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 4.) *Foreign Office, February* 17, 1877.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction from your telegraphic reports of yesterday, that the Prince of Montenegro has consented to negotiate at Constantinople, and will send his delegates there at once. It is satisfactory also to learn that His Highness has been greatly influenced in taking this decision, by his desire to comply with the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, and you are authorized to state to him that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople has been instructed to use his good offices to promote an understanding between Montenegro and the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 214.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 61. Most Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February* 17, 1877.

My Lord,

THE German Ambassador told me this afternoon that Prince Bismarck was of opinion that the time had not yet arrived to answer the Circular of Prince Gortchakow in regard to Turkey. Prince Bismarck had informed the Russian Government that this was his view, and the latter had apparently made no objection.

Count Münster added that he was allowed to tell me privately that the German Government would not take any part in a policy of coercion towards Turkey, and that they would be very reluctant even to join in fresh diplomatic action. This decision, however, Prince Bismarck did not intend to make public at present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 215.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 20. Confidential.) *Athens, February* 10, 1877.

My Lord,

I PRESUME that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople will have called your Lordship's attention to a pamphlet which has been recently published there under the title of "Les Responsabilités," purporting to contain letters which passed in the years 1870-73, between General Ignatiew and M. Novikow, the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, and various Russian Consuls in Servia and Montenegro, and in European Turkey, and the Panslavist Committees in Moscow and in Vienna.

I need not, therefore, allude to the astounding and compromising revelations respecting the designs and intrigues of the Russian Government which are made in that pamphlet.

It is, however, my duty to report that its publication has produced an extraordinary sensation here, that the Hellenic Government and all Greeks, whatever may be the party to which they belong, implicitly believe in the authenticity of the letters, and that the general distrust and hatred of Russia have now become intense.

It is hoped that Europe will at length be convinced of the danger of Panslavism, and see the necessity of arresting it by giving support and protection to the Hellenic race.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 216.

Edhem Pasha to the Duc Decazes.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by the Marquis d'Harcourt, February* .)

Excellence, *Le* 14 *Février*, 1877.

LE Gouvernement Impérial est résolu à accomplir toutes les réformes dont le principe a été solennellement proclamé, et à doter le pays des institutions qui découlent de la Constitution. Il s'est mis à l'œuvre et poursuivra sa tâche avec la plus grande persévérance.

La branche la plus importante de l'Administration, celle qui s'impose particulièrement à la sollicitude du Gouvernement Impérial, est évidemment l'organisation des Tribunaux, qui doit assurer la justice à tous suivant la prescription de la Constitution. C'est pourquoi la Sublime Porte s'est décidée à faire étudier avec tout le soin qui comporte l'importance de la matière les systèmes d'administration judiciaire en usage dans les différents pays de l'Europe, afin d'en retirer les notions nécessaires pour la réorganisation de nos propres institutions judiciaires.

Cette mission a été confiée à Vahan Effendi, sous-Secrétaire d'Etat au Ministère de la Justice, que je prends la liberté d'introduire auprès de votre Excellence, et que ses connaissances spéciales, son expérience et sa capacité recommandaient au choix du Gouvernement Impérial.

Vahan Effendi trouvera, je n'en doute pas, auprès de votre Excellence, un accueil bienveillant et toutes les facilités désirables pour l'accomplissement de sa mission. Ce fonctionnaire, qui est naturellement au courant des vues et des sentiments du Gouvernement Impérial, est chargé en même temps de fournir à votre Excellence des informations sur les efforts de la Sublime Porte pour accomplir son œuvre de régénération et sur l'état général des choses à Constantinople.

Dans la conviction que votre Excellence voudra bien lui accorder la même confiance dont elle a honoré Odian Effendi, je suis heureux de saisir cette occasion, &c.

(Signé) EDHEM.

No. 217.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 44.) *Rome, February* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Brindisi announcing the arrival there of Midhat Pasha, and reporting what Midhat Pasha had stated to him relative to the cause of his exile.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 217.

Consul Grant to Sir A. Paget.

Sir, *Brindisi, February* 12, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Midhat Pasha arrived here last night on board the Sultan's yacht "Izzidin."

The Turkish Consul-General called upon me this morning to say that his Highness had expressed a wish to see me, and I accordingly waited upon him this afternoon. As this is, I believe, the first opportunity which the late Grand Vizier has had of communicating with the outer world since he was conveyed on board the "Izzidin" at Constantinople,

your Excellency may like to hear the account he has given me of that important event.

I do not report direct to Her Majesty's Secretary of State on the subject, because I think it better to leave it to your Excellency to judge whether what I am about to relate is likely to have any interest for his Lordship or not.

Midhat Pasha told me that he entertained no suspicion of his impending fate. Called to the Palace by the Sultan's order, he was received by Saïd Pasha, the First Aide-de-camp, who read to him the Sultan's Decree banishing him from the Empire, on the charge of conspiring against His Majesty. He was then ordered to proceed at once on board the "Izzidin," which was to convey him to any port in Europe, out of the Sultan's dominions he might wish to go to.

Having asked for proofs of the crime imputed to him, Saïd Pasha went to the Sultan and brought back several scraps of paper, which contained the accusations brought against him by the police. These papers, which were not signed, conveyed reports of conversations overheard in the public cafés, to the effect that "Midhat Pasha would soon get rid of the Sultan, and become Dictator; that he would proclaim a Republic and make himself President," and so on.

This was the only evidence, Midhat Pasha assured me, upon which he had been exiled from his country.

His Highness then went on to say that his disgrace had been brought about by Russian money and intrigue, and by his personal enemies at the Palace, who had worked upon the timorous nature of the Sultan. It is a fact, he said, that the Sultan stood in great fear of him, and that, owing to the part he had had in the deposition of the late Sultans, Abdul Aziz and Mourad, His Majesty was always fancying that he would do the same to him.

As regards the part taken by Russia in the plot, he told me that it had come to his knowledge some time previous to the recent event that the Russian Government had opened credits in favour of its Agent with three eminent bankers at Constantinople for sums amounting altogether to 500,000 Turkish livres. He had used every endeavour, he said, to discover how this money was being disposed of, but to no purpose; now he knew that it had been employed to compass his ruin.

His Highness seems confident that his exile will not be a long one.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. GRANT.

No. 218.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, February 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THE answer of Grand Vizier as to reforms reported in your telegram of the 13th is far from being satisfactory, or such as Her Majesty's Government had hoped to receive. Her Majesty's Government would have wished to hear and to be able to repeat that the Porte is now of its own accord proceeding to carry out the measures proposed by the Powers in Conference, at least in their substantial features. An announcement of this kind in reply to the Russian Circular might go far to avert the danger of hostilities on the part of Russia, which will otherwise become imminent as soon as the weather admits of military movements.

But in the statement made to you and in another telegram communicated to me by Musurus Pasha, no mention is made of the proposals of the Representatives of the Six Powers, or of the most important guarantees for the good government of the provinces. There is nothing said of any security against the arbitrary removal of the Valis, of a control by the provincial assemblies over the disposal of a portion at least of the direct taxation, or of the proportions in which Christians shall be admitted to the police. Even the reforms promised are limited by modifying phrases. The prohibition of colonization by Circassians should not be restricted by the words "in large numbers" or "in mass," for colonies can be planted by instalments. A general amnesty, if indiscriminately applied, would include those guilty of Bulgarian atrocities, and would be worse than nothing. But there can be no reason why the mass of prisoners accused merely of participation in insurrection should not at once be released. It is impossible to form an opinion of the Commission of Control until its constitution is known. The Porte offered the last sitting of Conference that it should be elective.

Press these considerations strongly, and see if you cannot get more satisfactory explanations, as well as assurances as to the nature of measures to be proposed to the Chamber of Deputies.

No. 219.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.**

(No. 87.)

Foreign Office, February 18, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of the 13th instant, reporting the statements made to you by the Grand Vizier as to the reforms which the Porte are undertaking, or prepared to undertake, for the relief of the populations of the disturbed provinces. I regret to state that the answer of the Grand Vizier on this subject is far from being satisfactory, or such as Her Majesty's Government had hoped to receive.

Her Majesty's Government would have wished to hear, and to be enabled to repeat, that the Porte is now of its own accord proceeding to carry into execution the measures proposed by the Powers in Conference, at least in their substantial features.

If an announcement to this effect could be made in reply to the Circular of Prince Gortchakow, it might go far to avert the danger of hostilities on the part of Russia, which will otherwise become imminent as soon as the weather admits of military movements. But in the statement made to you, and in another telegram communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador, no mention is made of the proposals brought forward in the Conference by the Representatives of the Six Powers, nor of those guarantees which were considered by them of the greatest importance for the good government of the provinces.

There is nothing said, for instance, of any security against the arbitrary removal of the Valis, of a control by the Provincial Assemblies over the disposal of a portion, at least, of the direct taxation, or of the proportion in which Christians shall be admitted to the police.

Even the reforms promised are limited by modifying phrases. It is unfortunate that the prohibition of colonization by Circassians should be restricted by the words "in large numbers," or "in mass." Such a proviso may be so construed as to render the prohibition nugatory, for colonies can be planted by instalments.

A general amnesty, again, if indiscriminately applied, would include those guilty of the atrocities committed in Bulgaria. Such a measure would be worse than nothing. Her Majesty's Government can, however, see no reason why the mass of prisoners, accused merely of participation in the insurrectionary movement, should not at once be released.

As regards the Commission of Control, which is to supervise the execution of the reforms, it is impossible to form an opinion until its constitution is known. The Grand Vizier will remember that at the last sitting of the Conference the Turkish Plenipotentiaries offered that the Commission should be elective.

I have to instruct you to press these considerations strongly upon the Porte; and you should endeavour to obtain some more satisfactory explanations as to what is in contemplation or in course of execution, and some assurances with regard to the nature of the measures which will be proposed to the Chamber of Deputies.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 220.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

Cettigné, February 18, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE NICHOLAS is much gratified at the manner in which Her Majesty's Government have received his request. His Highness has received this day from Prince Gortchakow a telegram congratulating him upon his decision, and wishing success to the negotiations.

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* The substance of this despatch was telegraphed.

No. 221.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 3. Political. Confidential.)

Canea, Crete, February 5, 1877.

My Lord,

AS Mr. Sandwith's leave expires on the 21st of this month, and he is about to return here, I think it my duty before leaving Crete, to report to your Lordship, as succinctly as possible, the information I have obtained on the actual political state of the island.

The Christians, who form the great majority in the rural and mountainous districts, are extremely discontented, although their condition is infinitely better than that of any other subjects of the Porte elsewhere; but the fact is that under any Turkish rule they can never hope to see any move towards progress, because, as long as the state of political uncertainty and agitation exists (and it must exist as long as Turks are masters), the rural population of Crete, both Christian and Mahommedan, will not cultivate, will not plant, nor improve the country in any way, fearing to lose the fruits of their labour by constantly recurring insurrections. Canea, Rethymno, and Candia, the only towns Crete possesses, are in a more miserable state than they were in the time of the Venetians, more than two centuries ago! Almost every article of consumption, such as flour for bread, meat, rice, &c., is imported. Even potatoes come from Marseilles and Trieste.

The only important article of export is oil. The olive is easily gathered by women and children, easily pressed, and put into skins. Repeated revolutions, which have ruined the island, destroyed whole villages and almost everything else, have not been able to destroy the olive tree, which is very hard wood to cut down, uproot, or burn; therefore, favoured by a mild climate, it has resisted and survived, and generation after generation vegetate on its produce, live from hand to mouth, cultivate of the land only what is absolutely necessary for individual subsistence, and exist in poverty and misery.

The Mahommedans, who form the majority in the three small towns, are quite determined to maintain their supremacy, and any unforeseen event may, from one moment to another, fan a flame ever ready to break out: 10,000 or 12,000 men, which form, at present, the garrison of the island, would go but a very little way in repressing an insurrection, supported by external aid. In 1866-67 the Government had from 50,000 to 60,000 men; but this force did not prevent the insurrection from gaining ground, and continuing three years. It is true the "block-houses" had not then been built, but these must be garrisoned and defended.

Under the above-mentioned circumstances, no "Organic Law" can ever benefit Crete; its case is hopeless. The Christians look wistfully towards Greece, hear of its free institutions, which look hopefully at a distance, and feel that, as long as they remain under Turkish rule, all hope of progress is for ever denied them.

To live without hope is a desperate state of existence; and that is why the Christians are very loth to work, but show great alacrity to take up arms, and an insurrection may be expected at any moment. Indeed, it forms a very general and constant topic of conversation and speculation.

On the other hand, it is a matter of surprise to every one that the Porte should so obstinately persist in keeping an island which must always be a source of enormous expense, and from which it can never hope to extract any revenue, for the reasons given above—a possession to which a large garrison of military must constantly be sent, and maintained by stores, and money imported into the island, for the receipts cover but a very small portion of the expenditure, since the Government here is always some millions of piastres in debt, until money arrives from Constantinople, which liquidates only a small part of its liabilities.

The 40,000 or 50,000 Mahommedans in Crete could easily be protected by Treaty, but the greater part would, no doubt, return to Christianity, if Crete changed masters. Cretan Mahommedans all speak Greek, know not a word of Turkish, and religion among a great number has always been more a political advantage than a conscientious conviction, and it is the fear of losing their "vested interests" which creates the bitterest animosity against the Christians; so much so that the Europeans live in fear of their lives, knowing, from the constant threats of murder they hear uttered, that a war of extermination on the part of the Mahommedans will ensue on an insurrection breaking out.

The presence of men-of-war would then become absolutely necessary to protect them from the fury and violence of the mob in the towns.

Our new Governor-General, Moukhtar Pasha, is expected to arrive to-day, and

Réouf Pasha is anxious to get away. His Excellency has assured me that he will resign if the Porte insists on his remaining here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 222.

Vice-Consul C. Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 1. Consular.)

Rhodes, February 6, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Mutessarif of Rhodes, Aziz Pasha, has received yesterday a telegram from Constantinople, announcing him that the seat of the Vilayet of the Turkish Islands of the Archipelago has been transferred to Rhodes, and that Sawa Pasha has been appointed as Valy, having under his jurisdiction all the islands of the Ottoman Archipelago, Scio, Mytilene, and Cyprus included.

In my despatch No. 4 of the 15th July last, addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, I have had the honour to suggest that, instead of the Dardanelles, the seat of the Governor-General ought to be again transferred to Rhodes, not only because this island is the centre of the Vilayet, but also as an advisable political measure.

Moreover, in the actual state of things, the nomination of a Christian Pasha as Valy of the islands of the Archipelago where, at least, the nine-tenths of the inhabitants are Christians, must also be considered as a very wise measure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHS. BILIOTTI.

No. 223.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 62.)

St. Petersburgh, February 12, 1877.

My Lord,

AT an interview I had to-day with Prince Gortchakow, his Highness informed me that he had received satisfactory information in regard to the peace negotiations between Turkey and Servia.

There were two points on which a difficulty had arisen, viz., the reception by the Servian Government of a Turkish Agent to reside at Belgrade, and the demand of the Porte in regard to equality of rights for the Jews.

His Highness observed, that as regarded the former, he thought an amicable arrangement would be effected, as the Servian Government could not refuse to Turkey what was given to the European Powers.

With reference to the demand for equality of rights for the Jews, Prince Gortchakow considered that it was a question of internal government and a contravention of the *status quo ante*, which was the basis on which peace was to be concluded.

His Highness expressed his opinion that these difficulties would be arranged, and his desire for a successful issue to these negotiations, stating at the same time that although the Imperial Government had no objection to the conclusion of a direct peace between the Porte, Servia and Montenegro, he could assume no responsibility in advising as to the terms to be agreed upon.

In referring to the question of the Jews, Prince Gortchakow observed that it affected Roumania more than Servia, the Jewish population in Servia being far inferior in number to that of Roumania.

He spoke in depreciating terms of the Jews both in Roumania as well as in Poland, and in Southern Russia, observing that they exercised a most pernicious influence on the peasants and lower classes, which could only be counteracted by repressive laws.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 224.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 66. Confidential.)

Berlin, February 16, 1877.

My Lord,

I TOLD Herr von Bülow, in regard to the Russian Circular of the 19th ultimo, that as circumstances had changed since it was written, Her Majesty's Government, after

careful consideration, and with the earnest desire to meet the views of the Czar in a friendly and conciliatory spirit, had determined to defer their reply until it was seen what the effect would be of the change of Government at Constantinople, both with reference to the administration of reforms and the negotiations for peace between the Porte, Montenegro, and Servia.

Herr von Bülow, in thanking your Lordship for this communication, said that Germany could not follow a better example, and for the very same reasons as those that influenced Her Majesty's Government.

The answer to the Russian Circular must necessarily be deferred until the result of the negotiations between the Porte, Servia, and Montenegro, and the working of the new Constitution, could be known.

The news from Constantinople and Belgrade was favourable to peace, whilst Montenegro seemed less willing to treat than Servia, but there was every reason to hope that they would come to an understanding before the expiration of the armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 225.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 69. Confidential.)
St. Petersburgh, February 13, 1877.

My Lord,

AT my interview with Prince Gortchakow on the 11th instant, his Highness, in reply to my inquiry, stated that he had not yet received any reply to his Circular despatch, nor did he appear to expect that an immediate answer would, or could, be given by the several Governments to whom it had been addressed.

His Highness appears to be waiting with much anxiety the result of the discussions in the British Parliament, and the issue of the peace negotiations between the Porte, Servia, and Montenegro, which, he considers, may exercise considerable influence on the decisions to be taken. For the moment, therefore, the position is one of "expectancy," in which the mutable state of affairs at Constantinople enters largely into account.

Prince Gortchakow is not a pessimist. He appears to be anxious for the maintenance of the European concert, and hopeful of its continuance, if the Powers should recognize in principle the obligations which he considers as resulting from the unanimity of their agreement in the Conference at Constantinople.

From casual observations which fell from his Highness I gathered that in recognizing the principle of those obligations he considered that the Powers might deliberate as to mode of giving effect to them without necessarily implying a recourse to armed coercive measures, the united will of Europe firmly expressed being, in his opinion, sufficient to exercise a moral influence and compulsion on the Porte. But if, on the other hand, the Powers should hold aloof and decline any further active participation, then the European concert would be broken up and each Power would be free to act as its interests or necessities might dictate.

Prince Gortchakow spoke somewhat vaguely and discursively. I am, therefore, only able to report to your Lordship the general impression which his observations conveyed.

It appears to me that his Highness more particularly referred to England and to the course which may be taken by Her Majesty's Government. There is an evident wish on the part of Prince Gortchakow to avoid an isolated position for Russia and the necessity of a single-handed conflict with Turkey. He looks, therefore, to the maintenance of the European concert as the only means of extricating Russia from the advanced position in which the Imperial Government have placed themselves, and from which if they should not be relieved by the end of April, war must inevitably arise.

There is, moreover, a general belief here in the military and official circles (although it has not been even hinted at to me by Prince Gortchakow) that, should war take place between Russia and Turkey, it would be speedily followed by a renewal of the war between France and Germany, which would produce serious complications in Europe.

I cannot say how far these fears may be founded, but I have reason to believe that this possible contingency has not escaped the attention of the Emperor Alexander, who, in his desire for peace, so powerfully contributed two years ago to dispel the clouds of war which had gathered at Berlin.

It may therefore be easily presumed that the Emperor Alexander and his Government will use all their efforts to avert a single-handed conflict with Turkey from which

they can derive no material advantage, and which will impose on Russia a sacrifice of men and money which she can ill afford.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 226.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February 19.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 17 *Février*, 1877.

EN réponse à notre dernière communication, le Prince du Monténégro vient de nous télégraphier qu'il fera partir par le premier bateau ses délégués pour Constantinople à l'effet d'entreprendre avec la Sublime Porte les négociations de paix.

No. 227.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19.)

(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, February 19, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of the 15th instant respecting Mr. Gladstone's motion in House of Commons, it will be some days before any detailed report can be furnished respecting sentences passed on Bulgarians. 25 were executed, 2 sentenced to death but not executed, and 60 sentenced to hard labour by special Commission presided over by Salim Effendi, at Philippopoli; 22 were sentenced to death and 20 condemned to hard labour by Ali Shefik Bey's special Commission at Tirnova, and 2 were executed at Gabrova by order of Fasli Pasha. As regards the persons tried by Sadoullah Bey's Commission for having been implicated in outrages, Achmet Agha, of Dospat, was condemned to death, December 25; Achmet Tchaousch, of Kara Boulak, to hard labour for life, January 3; Kutchuk Khalil to 6 months' imprisonment for robbery, January 5; Alish Pehlivan to 4 years' hard labour, January 10; Achmet Tchaousch, of Dorkovo, to 8 months' imprisonment for theft, January 11; Metto Bektach to death, and Fetho, of Firgovo, to 8 years' hard labour, January 27: all these were implicated in Batak affair, and the sentences have still to receive the ratification of the Porte. Abdullah, the Kiatib of Dervent, was sentenced to 3½ years' hard labour for robbery on November 30; Tossoun Bey was acquitted February 6.

No 228.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 19, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.)
Constantinople, February 19, 1877, 2 P.M.

I SAW M. Christics this morning. He is sanguine of being able to come to an agreement.

He stated that question of position of Jews in Servia was practically settled; Porte having agreed that it should form subject of legislation.

He said that his Government, although willing if necessary to accede to mission of Turkish Agent, was especially anxious that this concession should not be recorded in the instrument drawn up at the conclusion of peace. He will sound Porte as to its intentions regarding Commission for the Drina frontier.

Would your Lordship authorize me to speak to Grand Vizier in support of it, as M. Christics is unwilling that the suggestion should appear to have come from him?

No. 229.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 45.)
Foreign Office, February 19, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me and repeated to me the substance of the communications which had lately reached him from Prince Gortchakow, which were to the following effect:—

In the midst of all the changes at Constantinople, Prince Gortchakow says the Emperor of Russia continues to pursue the same object, though the means by which it is sought to attain it may vary according to circumstances.

The object in question is that which all Europe has in view—the conclusion of peace between Turkey, Servia, and Montenegro, and the improvement of the condition of the Christian populations of Turkey on the bases already indicated by the Powers. The Emperor has always declared that his endeavours for this solution were made in concert with other Powers, and that unless this concert failed him he would not take isolated action.

In Prince Gortchakow's opinion a great danger will be averted if peace is concluded between Turkey and the Principalities. If further Edhem Pasha executes measures of real improvement in the position of the Christian subjects of Turkey, His Highness has no doubt the Emperor would take this result into consideration; but for this purpose it is necessary that there should be action, a beginning of something done, and not words only.

It remains then to be seen, Prince Gortchakow continues, whether the ulterior action of Russia is to be collective or isolated.

The Cabinets of Europe must decide that question. If the Governments of the other Powers answer that the Conference having failed, they will in future pursue a policy of abstention, that will be taken by the Russian Government as an indication that Russia must act for herself.

If the Powers, on the other hand, reply that they still maintain their requirements as to the improvement of the condition of the Christian population of Turkey, and that the unanimous wish of Europe in this respect must be ("doit être") respected by Turkey, that principle having once been laid down, namely, that Europe does not abandon the future of the populations in question, nothing prevents the continuance of Russia in the prosecution of this object by collective action.

On making this communication to me, Count Schouvaloff repeated to me again an assurance of the sincere desire of the Emperor Alexander to arrive at a pacific solution.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 230.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 7. Political.)
Erzeroom, January 16, 1877.

My Lord,

A REPORT is current in this town that the battalion of Erzeroom Redifs lately arrived from Servia had conspired to set fire to the bazaars here, and that Saueh Pasha, having discovered the intention, sent the battalion immediately to Beyazid.

I called on his Excellency yesterday, and asked him if this was true. He replied that he did not believe it was, as he had not received any information on the subject; but, at the same time, he could not assert it was false, as it was an accusation which perpetration alone could verify. The battalion, however, he added, having proved insubordinate and dangerous, he had removed it to Beyazid to prevent mischief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 231.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 8. Political.)
Erzeroom, January 16, 1877.

My Lord,

ORDERS have been received here to raise immediately, by a forced tax of 10 piastres per man on the people of this province, the sum of 6,600,000 piastres.

The Government, while making it appear on paper that children under fifteen years of age are to be exempt from the contribution, in reality lay the tax on all, and while declaring that deductions must be made from the register of population for absentees and diminution through death, direct that the entire sum must be realized.

The population is calculated at 660,000; from these one-fourth are to be deducted as being under fifteen years of age, and of the remainder, one-third, on the supposition that they are well off, are to pay 20 piastres per person. Thus:—

Estimated population	660,000
¼ being children are deducted	165,000
Contributing population	495,000
Deduct ⅓ taxed at 20 piastres per head	165,000
	330,000

			Piastres.
Therefore,	330,000 to pay 10 piastres each		3,300,000
And	165,000 to pay 20 piastres each		3,300,000
	495,000		6,600,000

or 10 piastres per male on the entire population.

Thus the tax is calculated, not on a certain portion of the population, but at 10 piastres on the whole male population, and the reduction of one-fourth as being under paying age is a deception, made evidently to mislead those who do not care to examine closely or who are unable to calculate.

If time is given to the Government to collect this tax it will certainly be forced from the people; but as it will take some time to collect, it remains to be seen whether the Government will be in power long enough to get the whole amount.

The money will be devoted to the expenses of the 4th Army Corps.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 232.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 5. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, February 6, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Herzegovina, which in January 1876 was made a separate vilayet, has again been reduced to a sandjak, and annexed, as formerly, to the Vilayet of Bosnia; and the Sandjak of Gatzko, in the former province, which was governed by the Christian Mutessarif or Vice-Governor, Constant Pasha, has been reduced to a simple kaza.

Mustafa Pasha, Mutessarif of the Sandjak of Svornik, has been named in the same capacity, but with increased rank, to the Herzegovina; and Constant Pasha has been appointed "Musteshar," or adviser to the Vali of Bosnia.

The Sandjak of Novi-Bazar has been detached from this vilayet, and now forms part of the new Vilayet of Kossovo, which also comprises the Sandjaks of Prisrend, Uskup, Nish, Shcherkoui, and Pristina, and therefore includes the greater part of what is generally known as old Servia. The seat of Government of this vilayet will be at Nish, and Kiamil Pasha, formerly Mutessarif of Beyrout, has been raised to the rank of Vizir and appointed to be the Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 233.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 6. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, February 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Deputies to the National Assembly have been finally elected in this province and will start for Constantinople towards the end of the present month.

Bosnia will be represented by three Mussulmans: Mustafa Bey, Fehmi Effendi, and Murad Bey; one Orthodox Christian, Petrarki Effendi; one Catholic, Tozo Marushich, and one Jew, Yaver Effendi.

These Deputies have been elected by the members of the "Idareh Medjlissleri," or Administrative Councils of the various "kazas," or districts of the province—some thirty-five in number. Each Council consists of three or four members, of which two are always Mussulman, and one or two, as the case may be, Christian. Every individual member had a right to vote for all six deputies, and sent to Serajevo in a sealed envelope a list of the persons to whom he accorded his vote. It can hardly be said to have been a popular election, as the electors were exclusively persons employed in the administration, and their votes were regulated by the wishes, I might almost say the instructions, of the local authorities. Such being the case, it seems a pity that the influence of the Government was not exerted to secure the election of liberal and independent men. Mustafa Bey, a member of the Ulema, is a son of Fazli Pasha, formerly one of the most powerful and influential men in the country, whether for good or evil, and is an exceedingly bigoted Mussulman; and Fehmi Effendi, of Banialuka, has long been known as the greatest fanatic and oppressor of the Christians in the north of Bosnia. I have no knowledge of the third Mussulman, Murad Bey, a native of Novi-Bazar. Petrarki Effendi, the Orthodox Christian Deputy, native of Serajevo, is a man whose interests are closely bound up with those of the Turks; he is a wealthy army contractor and a creditor of the Government to the amount of more than three million piastres. The Catholic, Tozo Marushech, of Travnik, is said to be a quiet harmless man, whose voice will probably never be heard in the Assembly; and the Jew, Yaver Effendi, a bankrupt merchant, though not wanting in intelligence, is known as a man of most unscrupulous character.

Deputies have also been elected in the Herzegovina, but I have not been able to learn their names, and notwithstanding that province is no longer a vilayet, it is believed they will proceed to Constantinople, as otherwise a fresh election would be necessary throughout the Vilayet of Bosnia. The separation of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar from Bosnia will also, it is said, not invalidate the election of Murad Bey, a native of the chief town of that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 234.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 114.)
Constantinople, February 9, 1877.

My Lord,

SIR HENRY ELLIOT reported to your Lordship, in his despatch No. 12 of the 5th ultimo, that the Sultan had issued an Irade creating a further issue of 7,000,000 Turkish pounds of paper currency, of which 2,000,000 were to be applied to the immediate wants of the Treasury; 2,400,000 to the repayment of bankers' advances; 1,000,000 to the withdrawal of a portion of the copper coin; and 2,000,000 to be placed in reserve.

In consequence of the promise of the 2,400,000*l.* having been officially announced to the participators in the advances which had been made both here and in Europe, a considerable rise took place in the establishments of which they were members.

The value of the paper has now fallen to 170 piastres against 100 piastres in gold to the pound Turkish, and the Government, alarmed at this depreciation, decided in Council a fortnight ago to limit the issue to 2,000,000 in lieu of 7,000,000 pounds, in consequence of which the promise to repay the bankers their advances was necessarily withdrawn.

The effects of this breach of contract upon the financial transactions already entered into will be most disastrous, and the Government, perceiving their mistake, have now promised to make good the loss sustained by the Ottoman Bank in this matter by offering to authorize the sale of securities held by the bank against them.

These, however, amounting to about 1,000,000, are far too small to cover the advance of nearly 10,000,000, which the bank has made, and thus it will be seen that a fresh financial embarrassment has arisen, and renewed discredit has been brought upon the Porte by its own reckless and improvident policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 235.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 115.)
Constantinople, February 9, 1877.

My Lord,

THE misfortune which has lately befallen the Turkish Empire by the disgrace and fall of Midhat Pasha will not have been altogether unexpected by your Lordship; Sir Henry Elliot having already reported the existence of intrigues against him which were likely to prove successful.

The late Grand Vizier had long been acknowledged as the leader of the advanced liberal party—the so-called "Jeune Turquie," consisting to some extent of men, who for the furtherance of their own ends, rather than in their country's interest, were prepared to go to almost any length in support of a policy calculated to diminish the absolute power of the Sultan.

Hitherto their chief had been able to keep their dangerous aspirations within bounds, so as to avoid exciting the susceptibilities of the Palace, but during the last few weeks there had been evidence of increasing independence and even arrogance of demeanour on their part, as well as of a relaxation of the control formerly exercised over them by Midhat Pasha.

Zia Pasha, one of the foremost in the movement, and, at present, Governor-General of Syria, had, on a recent occasion, not hesitated to declare that the Sultan was the mere servant of the people, and had denounced as contrary to the principles of political liberty, the idea that the will of one individual should bear down that of a whole nation.

This incident, an account of which I have the honour to enclose, will serve to illustrate the indiscretions not unfrequently committed by members of the National party, whose offensive expressions were, as may be supposed, not long in reaching the ears of the Sultan.

The absolute removal of the censorship of the press in political matters had been a favourite measure with the late Minister, but in adopting it he had neglected to ensure a corresponding observance of the respect due to his Sovereign by those who were responsible for the statements of its organs.

In one instance not long ago an influential local journal, the "Vakit," went so far as to assert that a mere decree of the Sheik ul Islam was in itself sufficient to depose the Sultan; an expression which appears to have aroused His Majesty's grave displeasure.

The Grand Vizier, however, to whom He complained of the objectionable phrase, took no further notice of the Imperial commands, beyond bidding the editor go and arrange the matter himself with the Palace.

Such incidents had tended to produce a feeling of suspicion and dread of His Vizier in the Sultan's mind, and the persons in His Majesty's immediate vicinity, who were ever on the watch for a false move on the part of a Minister whose measures were thwarting their own views, were not slow in availing themselves of the opportunity now offered of compassing his overthrow.

On the morning of the 5th instant, his Highness, who appears to have been almost unaware of his danger, was summoned to the Palace, where he was at once deprived of the seals of office, and, without any communication with the Sultan, forthwith conducted on board one of the Imperial despatch vessels, which lay ready to convey him out of the country.

Having been allowed to choose his destination, he is said to have selected Brindisi, whence, I understand, he intends proceeding to England.

The fall of such a man at so critical a period in his country's history was likely to be followed by the gravest consequences.

The action of his party seems, however, to have been paralysed by the sudden resolution which the Sultan had displayed, and when, a few days later, the Imperial Rescript announced the firm determination of the Government to stand by all Midhat's reforms, and to carry out the Constitution of which he was the author, while the Sultan's authority was maintained, it became evident that no immediate danger was to be apprehended from the change.

Demonstrations in Midhat Pasha's favour, and demands for his public trial were spoken of as likely to be made; but day after day passed, and the tranquillity which has now become so characteristic an accompaniment of political changes in Turkey, remained undisturbed.

The press had, naturally, received orders to support the Government in this matter, as will be be apparent from the inclosed extract from one of the popular journals; while the zeal of the national party is now displayed almost as much against its fallen chief as it formerly was in his favour.

I have been informed, however, that a few of the leading spirits of the party have abstained from this course, and are maintaining an attitude of reserve until the policy of the present Government has developed itself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 235.

Newspaper Extract.

D'APRES les dernières nouvelles de Smyrne, Zia Pacha, Gouverneur Général de Syrie, continue à sejourner à Smyrne. Son Excellence est l'hôte d'un notable Musulman de cette ville. C'est là qu'elle reçoit une série de visites et c'est là qu'elle déploie, aux yeux des personnes qui ne la connaissent pas, ce zèle et cet amour pour le bien public qui lui ont valu plus d'une condamnation à l'exil. A une personne qui lui parlait de la Constitution, Zia Pacha a dit nettement: "C'est votre seule planche de salut. Le jour où vous la foulerez aux pieds ou vous ne vous en servirez pas comme on doit s'en serrir, ou vous n'en tirerez pas ce que vous devez en tirer, ce jour-là vous prononcerez la condamnation de votre pays et vous le livrerez à l'étranger." A une autre, qui émettait, en tremblant, l'idée que le Sultan est toujours le Padischah, pouvant détruire d'un mot ou d'un geste, tout ce que la nation, ou lui-même, avait édifié: "Le Sultan," répliqua l'ancien chef de la Jeune Turquie, "est notre serviteur à tous et rien de plus. Lui-même, au surplus, l'a déclaré, ce qui sera son éternel honneur, et c'est faire œuvre de peuple esclave que de croire que la volonté d'un seul peut détruire la volonté de tous."

Inclosure 2 in No. 235.

Newspaper Extracts.

"Phare du Bosphore."

UN journal de la localité, dont le programme consiste à donner des coups d'encensoir aux puissants du jour, quitté à convertir son encensoir en fouet et à les fustiger impitoyablement aussitôt qu'ils cessent de l'être, cherche à nous attirer dans une polémique sur un terrain excessivement glissant.

Les écrits de ce journal ne pouvant exercer aucune influence sur l'esprit du public, nous ne répondrons pas à ses insinuations malveillantes et nous nous bornerons à enregistrer que, pour la centième fois, il a flairé en bon courtisan le coup le balai et s'est mis lestement du côté du manche.

"Courrier d'Orient."

Nous avions raison de dire que quarante-huit heures suffiraient pour consoler la "Turquie" de la chute de Midhat Pacha. Non seulement elle est consolée, mais elle traine pour ainsi dire aux gémonies celui qu'elle encensait quelques jours auparavant. Après lui avoir prodigué le nom de nom de "conseiller éclairé," "d'ardent patriote," après lui avoir attribué des paroles d'une "éloquence souveraine" et avoir dit qu'il pouvait "être fier du triomphe qu'il a remporté," la "Turquie" le dépouille des fleurs dont elle

l'avait orné. Elle déclare que "c'est à tort que l'on attribue exclusivement à Midhat Pacha le mérite de la réforme constitutionnelle. Tous ceux qui savent ce qui s'est passé depuis le grand acte de la promulgation de la Charte Constitutionnelle avaient pu prévoir l'événement actuel. Le changement du Grand Vézir était donc une mesure dont l'ajournement eût été un malheur public, &c."

La "Turquie" était sans doute au nombre des esprits pénétrants qui "avaient pu prévoir l'événement actuel." Alors pourquoi encensait elle le futur coupable? C'est qu'il était en place. Vivent les hommes élevé en dignité! Haro, sur les hommes tombés!

Nous ne serons pas accusé de partialité en faveur de Midhat Pacha, sur le compte duquel nous ne nous sommes jamais fait illusion après son premier Grand Viziriat; depuis qu'il a été mis pour la seconde fois à la tête des affaires, on ne trouvera pas dans le "Courrier d'Orient" un mot à sa louange. Mais on ne peut s'empêcher de parler quand on voit louer et blâmer le même homme du soir au lendemain.

La "Turquie" excuse très maladroitement l'exil de Midhat Pacha. Voici ses paroles: "Mais, dira-t-on, si le Sultan et ses conseillers ont eu raison dans le fond, ils ont eu tort dans la forme. Le Grand Vézir déchu (en Français on écrit 'Vizir' ou 'Visir') ne devait pas être éloigné du territoire et privé, sans jugement, du droit de vivre dans son pays."

La "Turquie" a tort de parler de mise en jugement. L'ex-Grand Vézir ne pouvait être jugé. Midhat Pacha s'était fait une belle part dans la Constitution; il s'était rendu inviolable. En effet, en vertu de l'Article 31 de la nouvelle Charte, on peut traduire un Ministre devant la Haute Court, mais le Grand Vézir reste au-dessus de la loi.

La "Turquie" dit que le Sultan a fait usage contre Midhat Pacha de "l'une de ses prérogatives souveraines consacrées par la Constitution."

Cette prérogative est inscrite dans l'Article 113, dont le dernier alinéa dit: "A Sa Majesté le Sultan appartient le pouvoir exclusif d'expulser du territoire de l'Empire . . . ceux qui sont reconnus comme portant atteinte à la sûreté de l'Etat."

Mais l'Article 113 concerne l'état de siége, et bien des gens soutiennent que sans l'état de siége l'expulsion ne peut légalement avoir lieu.

Une pareille objection peut être réfutée sans entrer en discussion sur l'interprétation de l'Article dont il s'agit. Admettons qu'elle soit fondée.

Mais alors en vertu de quelle loi jugera-t-on un Grand Vézir? Il n'y en a pas. Reste la volonté du Souverain qui, en certains cas, d'après les institutions Islamites, est une loi vivante: *viva ac spirans lex.*

L'expulsion de Midhat Pacha est donc parfaitement correcte.

No. 236.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 119.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 11, 1877.

THE Grand Vizier told me yesterday that he had received a very favourable report from his Agent at Belgrade as to the conciliatory disposition displayed by Prince Milan.

Judging from Pertew Effendi's statement, his Highness thought that the Servian Government would eventually accept the guarantees demanded by the Porte, and would consequently be disposed to send a delegate to Constantinople to treat for peace, which, he said, might be concluded three or four days after his arrival.

He, therefore, saw no necessity for extending to Pertew Effendi powers beyond those which he already possessed.

With regard to Montenegro, things, he feared, were not so satisfactory.

Prince Nicholas appeared less disposed to send a delegate here to treat, and Edhem Pasha did not conceal his conviction that the success of any negotiations carried on at Vienna would be endangered by the pernicious influence likely to be brought against them through the Slav agencies at work in that capital.

Besides if, as seemed probable, the Prince considered it beneath his dignity to treat at Constantinople, the Porte might, on the same ground, refuse to do so at Vienna.

I asked his Highness what were his intentions as to the cession of territory to be made to Montenegro, and he replied that on the southern or Albanian frontier no modification could take place, as a contrary course would be fatal to the maintenance of the Porte's authority among the Mirdites and other mountain tribes in that direction.

Along the northern boundary he would be willing to agree to a rectification, but to what extent he was not yet prepared to say.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 237.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 12, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of despatches, which I have received from Mr. Baring respecting the sentences passed on Metto Bektach and Fetha, the public trial and subsequent acquittal of Tossoun Bey, and some further outrages committed in Bulgaria.

By my telegram of the 7th instant, I informed your Lordship that I had instructed Mr. Baring to withdraw from the Commission and return here.

He arrived here yesterday.

I have, &c
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 237.

Mr. Baring to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Philippopolis, January* 25, 1877.

THE public trial of Tossoun Bey, and of the other prisoners charged with being implicated in the destruction of Dervent, was commenced on the 20th instant and was brought to a close on the 24th.

Besides Tossoun Bey eight men are in custody, viz., Halim Pehliwan, Deli Hussein, Hadji Misirli, Hadji Veli, Ismail Beuluk Bachi, and Murtaza Tchaoush.

Ismail Beuluk Bachi was absent from the trial through illness.

The defence was conducted by Ali Effendi, who had previously defended Achmet Agha and others.

The whole of Saturday, the 20th instant, was occupied in the reading of the "Fesleke;" and on Monday, the 22nd, Ali Effendi was called upon to make his defence.

He commenced by saying, that certain expressions used in the "Fesleke," such as, "Dervent was destroyed on Monday," "The Bashi-Bazouks surrounded Dervent," &c., were quite incorrect, as Tossoun Bey and his men had never gone further than the fortifications, which lay some distance from the village. In his opinion the "Fesleke" contained no charge against Tossoun Bey, and, therefore, no defence was necessary.

The President replied, that it was Ali Effendi's duty as counsel for the defence to account for his client's movements from the time of his arrival at Dervent to the time of his return to Karlowo, and to give some explanation about the document (mentioned in my despatch of November 12th), which appear to have been drawn up after and not before the destruction of Dervent.

Ali Effendi said that this document had been given to Tossoun Bey at Rahmanli, a Turkish village, not far from Dervent.

Tossoun Bey himself supported this statement, and added, that when the paper was brought to him he at first refused to accept it, as some of the village seals had not been affixed to it; but that he subsequently took it, as the villagers promised to seal it later on.

This paper, which is supposed to relieve Tossoun Bey of all responsibility, is drawn up in the most flowery language, and would be utterly incomprehensible to people like the villagers of Rahmanli, and it is in all probability the production of some well educated man of Karlowo, who drew it up after Dervent was destroyed, and when Tossoun Bey was beginning to get afraid of the consequences of his acts.

The President observed that all the information received by the Commission tended to prove that Dervent had been burnt and pillaged, and that some 250 people had been killed by the Bashi-Bazouks under Tossoun Bey, and that some gipsies, who had been imprisoned by the Bulgarian insurgents, had deposed to having been released by these

Bashi-Bazouks; how could any one therefore argue that Tossoun and his men had never been to the village?

To this Ali Effendi replied that perhaps some other band of Bashi-Bazouks had destroyed the place, and he then asked that the trial might be postponed to give him time to consult with his client about certain points.

At first the President objected to this, and told Ali Effendi that he had neglected his duties to the Court and to his client in not properly preparing his defence, and that his only object was to waste time; eventually, however, his Excellency gave way, and the case was adjourned to the following day, the 23rd instant, when Ali Effendi asked that it might again be put off till the morrow, as he had only got a copy of the document mentioned above some two hours before.

The President very rightly refused this request, as Ali Effendi has had a month to prepare his defence, during which time he has had free access to all the documents connected with the case.

Ali Effendi consequently commenced his defence and used the same arguments which he had brought forward the day before. As regards the smoke which some of the prisoners admitted they had seen rising from the village, he said that as it was raining hard, it was probably only mountain mist that they had seen.

The imprisoned gipsies had probably been rescued by others of their race, and the village had most likely been burnt by the insurgents, who had acted as they had done at Zindjirli and Avrat Alan.

It is worth remarking that at the latter place not a single house had been burnt.

As Ali Effendi demanded that all the depositions of the gipsies should be read once more, the trial had to be postponed till the following day, the 24th instant.

Ali Effendi then stated that Tossoun Bey had merely gone as far as the fortifications with a few men to see what was going on, that the insurgents fired on them, upon which they hid in a hollow. The other Bashi-Bazouks hearing the firing came to the aid of their comrades and a fight ensued, which resulted in the insurgents being driven from their fortifications.

All the prisoners positively declared that they carried no arms.

Ali Effendi ended his defence by saying that Tossoun Bey had been brought under an armed escort to Philippopolis, and that this had frightened and confused him, consequently he denied the accuracy of everything he had stated in his depositions.

The proceedings then terminated.

Ikiades Effendi has not yet returned here, as for several days past all communication with Adrianople has been suspended owing to an interruption on the railway, caused by the heavy snows. I trust, however, that he will be back in time to take part in the deliberations on Tossoun Bey's case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 237.

Mr. Baring to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Philibé, January* 28, 1877.

WITH reference to my telegram of this day's date, I have the honour to report that the case of Metto Bektash was brought to a close yesterday.

In my despatch to Sir H. Elliot of the 19th instant, I gave an account of the evidence of certain Batak women against the prisoner, and stated that Pertev Effendi was still of opinion that his guilt was not satisfactorily proved.

After Tossoun Bey's public trial was brought to a close on the 24th instant, the Commission proceeded to discuss Metto's case, and the depositions of the women mentioned above were read over, the important points of which I have already reported. I should, however, add that a woman named Zrapha deposed to having seen Metto butchering people on the Sunday in front of the Tchorbaji Triandophilos house, and she gave the names of twenty-six men who were then butchered before her eyes.

Another women named Fota deposed to having seen Metto with his bloody apron on.

Serafin Georgio Oghlou Velo deposed to having seen Metto among the Bashi-Bazouks who were murdering people outside the church. This witness had given his evidence very unwillingly, and begged not to be asked about Metto, as he feared the vengeance of the Mussulman villagers.

The President remarked that, on the whole, there were very few discrepancies in

the evidence, as all the witnesses agreed about the main facts of the case; he also pointed out that the prisoner bore an indifferent character, as not a single soul had come forward to speak a good word for him, as had been the case with Alish Pehlivan and others.

Abro Effendi observed that the prisoner's guilt was so evident that he considered further discussion unnecessary.

The President remarked, on the absence of all tendency on the part of the witnesses to aggravate the crimes of the prisoners, Metto was the only one against whom they had brought actual charges of murder, though it would have been easy for them to have accused Achmet Agha and others of having killed with their own hands.

Salim Effendi and Pertev Effendi still dwelt upon the discrepancies in the evidence, and the latter said that the story of Metto's having appeared before the women at the "Beylik Harman" with his bloody sword in his hand, was, in the last degree, improbable; he added that, looking to the gravity of the charges against the prisoner, the Commission should take ample time for reflection before passing sentence.

The discussion was consequently adjourned till the following day, but had to be again postponed till yesterday, on account of Pertev Effendi being occupied with other business.

On the 27th instant, therefore, the discussion was resumed, and a long paper was read which Pertev Effendi had drawn up, and which was supposed to be a summary of the evidence, but which bore far more resemblance to the statement of an advocate for the defence than to the summing up of a judge. After the reading of this paper, he added that, though there was no doubt that the prisoner had killed people, it remained to be proved whether he had done so after the fighting was over.

The President and Yovantcho Effendi said that even if it were admitted, for the sake of argument, that there had been fighting on Sunday, it could not for a moment be said that there had been any on Monday, for on that day the Bashi-Bazouks had taken the women outside the village, which they could not have done if the villagers had still been offering resistance.

Pertev Effendi remarked upon the different nature of the facts spoken to by the witnesses, some having spoken of the apron, some of the bloody sword; some of the massacre near the school; and others of that outside the village, the real truth being that each of the witnesses had spoken of what had come under his or her individual notice.

As the President, however, insisted that the prisoner's guilt could not be doubted, Pertev Effendi eventually signified his agreement with his colleagues, and Metto Bektash was unanimously condemned to death, the sentence running as follows:—

"As it results from investigation that Metto Bektash Achmet, of Rakitovo, with *malice prépense* murdered men of Batak after the arms had been surrendered, he is condemned to death under Article 170 of the Penal Code."

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 3 in No. 237.

Mr. Baring to Mr. Jocelyn.

Philippopolis, January 28, 1877.

Sir,

FETHA, of Firgovo, of whom I have spoken in my despatches to Sir Henry Elliot of the 15th and 26th ultimo, and 19th instant, was publicly tried on the 26th instant.

The depositions were read, the first being that of Sofia Vrankovitza, who had deposed that the prisoner had tied the arms of Tchorbadji Triandaphil, as described in my despatch of the 26th ultimo. The prisoner had also gone to her house with Mollah Ali, the son of Achmet Agha, and a short pehlivan (wrestler) of Baratoun, and had robbed her of everything she had, Fetha taking a horse with him.

While they were searching her one of her children cried, upon which the "pehlivan" of Baratoun drew his knife and killed it. Unfortunately, she does not know this man's name. A zaptich named Halim was arrested on suspicion, but on being confronted with him she was unable to recognize him.

The Commission which was sent to the different Turkish villages to discover cattle and other property taken from Batak when at Nevrocop, found that a horse belonging to Vranko, the husband of Sofia, had been sold by Fetha to a man named Stoyo at Kotchan.

The prisoner's defence was a total denial of everything. He had not been to Batak for three years; he had not been to Kotchan for a year; he did not know Stoyo, and he had never sold a horse. When recognized by Ismail Effendi, a member of the Commission above mentioned, and by a zaptieh, he denied ever having seen either of them. He was a poor innocent man, who had never injured anybody, or, as he expressed it, "he had never thrown a stone at any one's hen."

Yesterday, after passing sentence on Metto Bektash, the Commission proceeded to discuss Fetha's case, and, after deliberating a short time, sentenced him to eight years' hard labour for robbery with violence.

It was impossible to convict him for his share in the murder of Triandaphil, as the charge was not substantiated.

The deliberations on Tossoun Bey's case commence to-morrow.

Postal communication with Constantinople is still interrupted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 4 in No. 237.

Mr. Baring to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Philippopolis, February* 4, 1877.

MY time has been of late so fully occupied in reporting the proceedings of the Special Commission, with regard to the trials of the Bashi-Bazouks, that I have been unable to address any despatches to Her Majesty's Embassy on the subject of the general state of this province.

I regret to say that public security is still in a most lamentable condition, and though there are occasional lulls in Turkish ferocity and fanaticism, still the deeds of violence which are constantly being perpetrated prove that the lives and property of Christians are not much safer than they were in May last.

To prove my assertion, I will cite some of the worst cases which have been brought to my notice.

On the 18th ultimo, Pope Bortcho, while engaged in the religious ceremony of blessing the houses in the village of Strelja, was set upon by four Turks, viz.: Hadji Ibrahim Oghlou Suleiman, Tatar Muhterim, Hadji Oghlou Mehmed, and Zenel Oghlou Suleiman, and so fearfully beaten that he died at Otlou-Keui on the 26th ultimo.

Ibrahim Oghlou Suleiman and another Turk have been arrested, and I am using my endeavours to get the case tried here before the Commission, instead of at Tatar-Bazardjik, for at the latter place the Christian witnesses would be intimidated, and the prisoners acquitted.

When the Commission visited Peshtera last September, I informed Saadoulah Bey that this same Ibrahim had murdered a man named Nenko Tartaroff at Strelja. His Excellency promised to have the matter inquired into, but still four months after Suleiman is able to murder another perfectly inoffensive Christian.

On the 24th ultimo, Stoiko Oghlou Stephan, a "baccal," at Bellova, was murdered by a zaptieh named Djurji Oghlou Ismail, who is still at large.

On the 30th ultimo, at Yourtdjou, in the Nahié of Konousch, Osman Oghlou Yahoub and his brother Mehemet went to the house of one Kolis Oghlou Anastus, and asked for the loan of a sledge. On the latter replying that he wanted it himself, he was attacked by the Turks, and severely wounded with knives.

At Paparli, a short time ago, two Turks went to a Bulgarian wedding, and, without the smallest provocation, severely wounded a Christian. The malefactors are known, and orders have been sent for their arrest, but I have not yet heard whether they have been carried out or not.

At the beginning of last month two Bulgarian Catholics were killed, and two others wounded in the streets of this town by Turks.

A few days ago, a tchaoush of zaptichs, in the presence of a Yuzbashi, beat a Christian in open day in Philippopolis.

It is a fact worthy of notice that the police, who, in most countries, are usually supposed to be the guardians of the public peace, in this province commit every act of outrage on the inhabitants, and are usually quite as much dreaded as an organized band of brigands would be.

When one brings these outrages to the notice of the authorities, they express

regret, promise inquiry, and add that, after all, they are isolated acts which may happen in all countries.

The answer to this last statement is, of course, but too obvious. Crimes of violence may, indeed, happen everywhere, and perhaps there may be more assaults in the streets of London in a night than in those of Philippopolis in a week, but in these provinces we see a state of things which is unknown to other lands. In 99 cases out of 100, the murderer or robber belongs to one class, while the victims belong to another. The former is sure to be a Mussulman, the latter a Christian. There is no reciprocity in crime, if I may be allowed to use the expression.

It is only fair to state that the perpetrators of most of the crimes I have mentioned have been arrested, but what happens then. The case is tried before the local tribunal, which allows it to drag on for months, thus giving ample time for the friends and relations of the accused to intimidate the witnesses, who also are wearied out by the length of the so-called inquiry, and often give up prosecuting in order to return to their occupations.

In my despatch to Sir Henry Elliot of December 11th, I mentioned the case of a zaptieh who had wounded an old man at Palanko. This case, which might have been decided in a few days, is still being "inquired into."

It would not be right of course to blame the Commission for the acts of the local authorities, and it cannot be expected to try every case which comes under its notice, as its time is occupied with other matters; but I cannot help thinking that if Saadoulah Bey was to show a little more severity and to issue a somewhat more peremptory order, it would have the effect of rousing the Mutessarif and the Temyiz i Hukkuh from their present lethargy.

Opinions here differ vastly respecting the character of the Mutessarif, some of the Christians to whom I have spoken about him declaring that they are satisfied with him, while others assert quite the contrary.

My own opinion of this functionary is that he is totally wanting in energy, and is rather too fond of shutting his eyes to the real state of things in this province. He is, moreover, much influenced by some resident Mussulmans whose hostility to the Christians is a matter of notoriety.

Another officer whose removal would be beneficial to the public, is the chief of the police, who, since I have been here, has given repeated proofs of utter incapacity.

I have mentioned in a previous despatch that attempts were being made to get the Bulgarians to join in signing an address to the Grand Vizier, thanking his Highness for the promulgation of the Constitution, &c.

A meeting was held some time ago at the house of Hadji Ismail Bey, one of the leading Turks of this town, at which Mussulmans, Greeks, Armenians, Bulgarians and Jews were all supposed to fraternize. Many Turks and very few Christians attended, and I am told that the proceedings were simply farsical. After much discussion some of the Bulgarian notables have now signed the address, but the bishop has refused to do so.

The original idea was that the address should be sent to Constantinople while the Conference was sitting, in order to strengthen the hands of the Turkish Plenipotentiaries, but I am assured that had it been then remitted to the capital, a counter address, numerously signed, would have been forwarded to the European Delegates by the Bulgarians.

As the Conference has now come to an end the address has really no importance, and the Bulgarians have perhaps done well to sign it; but I do not suppose that any one will look upon it as a faithful expression of their feelings.

When ready some of the leading Turks are to take the address to Constantinople, but no Christian is to accompany them, and the Greeks, who quite rightly look upon this as a slight, have as yet refused to sign.

One of the bearers of this address is Hodjazadi Mehemet Effendi, whose bad reputation I have mentioned in my previous despatches to Sir Henry Elliot.

Ali Bey, the notable of Bazardjik, of whom I have also frequently had occasion to speak, died suddenly a few days ago, to the undisguised joy of every Christian in the place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 5 in No. 237.

Mr. Baring to Mr. Jocelyn.

Sir, *Philippopolis, February 7, 1877.*

I HAD the honour to inform you yesterday by telegraph that the deliberations on the case of Tossoun Bey had ended in his acquittal. I will now endeavour to lay before you some account of the discussions which led to this undesirable result, and which commenced on Monday, 31st ultimo.

The President opened the discussion by giving a brief account of how the Bulgarians of Derbend had been instigated by the leaders of the insurrection to revolt, adding that the village was plundered and burnt, and a certain number of people killed, though it was difficult to say exactly how many; it would also not be easy to determine who actually set fire to the place.

Ikiades Effendi said that Tossoun Bey's plea, that he had merely gone to Derbend to parley with the insurgents, could not be accepted, as the "Sened" he had received, whether it was given to him before or after the destruction of the village, showed plainly that he had some other object in view.

Yovantchow Effendi said that, though perhaps some of the Bashi-Bazouks had returned to their homes after the insurgents had been driven from the fortifications, others had undoubtedly entered the village, and had committed the crimes the Commission was called upon to judge.

Abron Effendi was of opinion that the Commission should first determine whether crimes had ever really been committed, and also whether there had been any fighting inside the village; but the President replied that all the fighting had taken place at the fortifications.

Pertev Effendi then read some depositions of Bulgarians, examined by Salim Effendi's Commission, who had stated that the insurgents of Avrat Allan had murdered the gipsies at that place, on hearing from the refugees from Derbend that their village had been burnt by other gipsies.

Ikiades Effendi remarked that the villagers of Derbend themselves would never have set fire to their houses, as, when they fled, they left a considerable number of old men, women, and children behind them. Neither could the gipsies have been the originators of the fire, as they had been imprisoned by the insurgents, and had only been released by the Bashi-Bazouks; and when they came out of their place of confinement, the village was already in flames. As regards the persons who had been killed, it was evident that they had met their death after the fighting was over, as even Tossoun Bey and those with him had declared that the fighting had only lasted half-an-hour, and they did not see a single corpse after the insurgents had fled from the fortifications. Besides, the corpses found in the village were those of old men, women, and children, who were incapable of bearing arms or of offering resistance.

The President replied that the evidence of the gipsies was not worthy of credence, and that they had very likely set fire to the village out of revenge for their imprisonment. He added that the fire may have originated in four different ways. It may have been caused by the villagers themselves, by the Bashi-Bazouks, by the gipsies, or it may have been the result of an accident.

Yovantcho Effendi observed that it naturally originated with those men who, on the Tuesday morning, had arrived at Rahmanli with several cartloads of things taken from Derbend.

Pertev Effendi replied that some other band of Bashi-Bazouks might have gone from Rahmanli on the Tuesday, and that the persons who committed the pillage did not necessarily belong to Tossoun's band.

The sitting was then adjourned to the following day, the 1st instant, when the discussion respecting the origin of the fire was resumed, and much the same arguments brought forward as had been made use of on the previous day.

Eventually it was agreed that it was impossible to decide how the village had taken fire, the President, Salim Effendi, Abro Effendi, and Pertev Effendi signing a decision, which ran as follows:—

"It is impossible to determine whether Derbend was burnt by the Revolutionary Committee of that place, by the gipsies, or by the Bashi-Bazouks, or whether the fire was the result of accident."

Yovantcho Effendi and Ikiades Effendi signed a decision to the following effect:—

"It is impossible to determine whether Derbend was burnt by accident or by the malicious act of some evilly disposed person."

The returns of the killed inside the village were then examined, and were found to give a total of fifty. Of these sixteen were old men past the age of 60; twelve males from 15 to 60 years of age; eleven women and eleven children.

This list does not include those who were killed in the neighbourhood of the village, nor those who are put down as "missing," but it shows clearly how utterly insignificant was the resistance of the insurgents, for nearly all those who perished were persons incapable of offering resistance.

Some members of the Commission declared that men of over sixty were perfectly capable of bearing arms, but if this argument be admitted, it is but fair to consider that some of the twelve persons between 15 and 60 who were killed may have been invalids or cripples, and not able bodied men.

The next sitting was held on the 3rd instant, but little progress was made on that day.

It was decided to send a telegram to Hafiz Pasha, who had gone to Derbend from Avrat-Allan, to ask him whether, on his arrival there, the village was partially or totally burnt.

The only remark worthy of note was one which fell from the President, who said that there was no doubt that the people killed at Derbend had not met their death at the hands of the Bulgarians, and moreover, that they had been murdered and not killed in fighting. The difficulty was to decide who had committed the crime, as there were no eye-witnesses to speak to it.

The Commission met again on Monday the 5th instant, and the President again remarked upon the difficulty of discovering the guilty, and proposed that they should consider how far Tossoun Bey was implicated in the crimes committed.

Ikiades Effendi said that the question of the burning of the village need not be discussed any more, but as regards the massacre, he could not attribute it to the Bulgarians nor yet to the gipsies, for the latter had been disarmed when they were imprisoned. It must have taken place on the Monday, the day the village was attacked, as otherwise the victims would have found some means of escape.

Taking into consideration the evidence of the gipsies respecting the manner in which they had been released, and also the evidence of some witnesses who declared that they had seen some of Tossoun's men returning from Derbend with plunder, he could but be of opinion that on that day (Monday), some, or the greater part of the Bashi-Bazouks commanded by Tossoun Bey, had entered the village and committed the crimes in question.

Salim Effendi said this opinion was founded on probabilities only. The depositions of certain witnesses were then read to the effect that they had seen the Bashi-Bazouks returning with horses and waggons laden with stolen property.

A gipsy woman had deposed that when she was released from her captivity on the Monday, she saw some 25 or 30 men in turbans in the village of Derbend. Yovantcho Effendi observed that it would be better in the first place to determine whether the Bashi-Bazouks had committed pillage or not, as it would then be easy to fix the responsibility on the proper persons.

Ikiades Effendi said that it would appear strange to the world at large if a special Commission appointed by the Imperial Government to discover and punish the persons who had reduced one of the finest villages in the province to ashes, and had massacred a number of the defenceless inhabitants, was unable to perform its task.

The President then proposed that the Commission should decide whether Tossoun Bey was responsible for having gone to Derbend to suppress the insurrection or not.

All the members answered in the negative, except Ikiades Effendi, who said that the prisoner was responsible for having gone to suppress the insurrection, and also for the excesses of his band. Being merely a private individual he had no right to take upon himself the duties of the Government unless expressly ordered to do so. He had stated that he had gone to Derbend merely to parley with the insurgents, and when the latter fired on his men he should have returned and reported the matter to the proper authorities. Tossoun Bey had acted in an utterly unjustifiable manner, and any tribunal in the world would be bound to punish him severely.

The President replied that Tossoun Bey had not gone to fight, but to parley with the insurgents, and on being fired on, had attacked them in self defence. Had it not been for the Bashi-Bazouks the insurrection would no doubt have spread over the whole country. He then proposed that the Commission should decide whether Tossoun Bey was or was not responsible for the burning of the village.

Pertev Effendi said that question had already been disposed of.

Ikiades Effendi held that Tossoun was responsible for the burning of the village as well as for the other crimes.

Yovantcho Effendi observed that Tossoun's acts were justifiable up to the repulse of the insurgents. But he was responsible for all the excesses committed after that, because after the defeat and flight of the rebels it became his duty to protect the village. Abro Effendi dissented from this view, and said that as there had been no surrender of arms, Tossoun was not bound to take the village under his protection.

The sitting was then adjourned till the following day the 6th instant.

The President opened the proceedings by saying that there could be no doubt that Derbend had been pillaged by the Bashi-Bazouks, but that it was not probable that Tossoun Bey was responsible for it, as he had declared that he had returned to Karlovo on the Monday evening. As to the charge brought against him of having extorted money from the Tchorbaji, Hadji Yura of Sopat, it had not been sustained, the only witness being a gipsy woman who had contradicted her own evidence. Moreover, Hadji Yura himself had begged the Commission not to press the charge, saying that if it were regularly investigated he would himself deny it.

I was not aware that Hadji Yura had ever made this statement, but it is by no means improbable. When at Sopat I stayed two days in his house, and it was with the greatest difficulty that he could be induced to speak of what had happened in the spring, so fearful was he of the vengeance of Tossoun Bey. I was surprised, however, to hear Saadoulah Bey bring forward Hadji Yura's unwillingness to give evidence as a reason for not proceeding with a legal investigation.

Yovantcho Effendi repeated that Tossoun Bey was responsible for all crimes committed after the suppression of the revolt.

Albro Effendi held a contrary opinion, saying that the property of rebels was not entitled to protection, and Pertev Effendi supported his views.

The President also denied Tossoun Bey's responsibility.

Ikiades Effendi then made a powerful speech in favour of convicting the prisoner, repeating the arguments he had used at previous sittings, and ended by saying that the evidence was sufficient to convince him of Tossoun Bey's guilt, but if the other members still had doubts they should endeavour to collect fresh evidence.

Salim Effendi thought the evidence insufficient to convict Tossoun.

Pertev Effendi addressed the Commission at considerable length, and said that there was nothing to prove that the Bashi-Bazouks had burnt the village. As to the pillage, he was of opinion that the insurgents of Derbend had buried their property, as they had done in other places, for the insurrection was no sudden outbreak, but the result of carefully laid plans. He did not, however, state whether he thought the insurgents had buried their live stock as well as their other property. Taking for granted, therefore, that the insurgents had concealed their goods, he said that it would have been impossible for the Bashi-Bazouks to have discovered it in one day (Monday), but that most probably it had been gradually carried off by other persons later on. He declared that it was not proved to his satisfaction that women and children had been murdered. If it was true that they had been killed they might perfectly have met their death while the fighting was going on, or, indeed, the insurgents might have killed them themselves, as they had done at other places.

This last argument is continually being used by those who endeavour to absolve the Bashi-Bazouks from the charge of having butchered innocent persons, and it is founded on the story of a man who, in the Church of Peroustitza, killed his wife and children. There is not a tittle of evidence to show that anything of the sort happened elsewhere, and those who are fondest of enlarging on it do not apparently see that, to say that men prefer killing their wives and children to allowing them to fall into the hands of the Bashi-Bazouks does not speak well for the reputation of the latter.

Abro Effendi expressed opinions which agreed pretty well with those of the last speaker, and the Commission then proceeded to give its decision.

Two members, viz., Yovantcho Effendi and Ikiades Effendi, gave their votes in favour of punishing Tossoun Bey, but the other four decided that the evidence was insufficient to convict him, or the other prisoners, and they were consequently acquitted.

As soon as the decision had been signed by the majority I rose, and informed the President that it would be impossible for me to attend any more sittings of the Commission till I had received instructions from you; the decision I considered objectionable and contrary to the evidence, and I must therefore decline to be associated with the Tribunal from which it emanated.

I then withdrew.

I am not prepared to say that the evidence against Tossoun is quite as clear as that on which Achmet Aga and Metto Bektash had been condemned to death, but still it was sufficient to convince any impartial person that he was responsible for the crimes committed at Derbend. As it is, murder, arson, and pillage have been committed in broad day and yet nobody is punished.

The acquittal of Tossoun Bey cannot but have a bad effect, as the Mussulman masses will never believe that insufficiency of evidence caused the Commission to come to their decision, but will simply think that the members were either influenced by fear or that they approve the acts of the Bashi-Bazouks in suppressing the insurrection.

Moreover, the dangerous principle is laid down that any man in troublous times may organize armed bands and, without giving account of his actions to the authorities, may go about putting down revolts, real or imaginary, and then not be held responsible for any mischief that may be done.

I would have been perfectly willing to admit that had Tossoun been punished, the interests of justice would have been satisfied, and that there would have been no necessity to proceed further against the other prisoners, and even if the Commission had been disposed to take a merciful view of the case, and only to hold him responsible for the pillage, I should have been inclined to accept the sentence. As long as the criminality of his acts was admitted, it would not so much matter if he had been only leniently punished.

His acquittal has not surprised me, as it may be gathered from my despatches to Sir H. Elliot how difficult it was to obtain the condemnation of Achmed Agha and others against whom the evidence was so strong.

Both Yovantcho and Ikiades Effendi have throughout the discussions shown great independence of spirit and have worked hard in the interests of justice, but since Wassa Effendi was removed from the Commission they have been in a hopeless minority, and their efforts in the case of Tossoun have proved fruitless.

As far as I am personally concerned, I have throughout done all in my power to obtain the conviction of the different prisoners, and I can only regret that in the present instance I should have been unsuccessful.

My presence in this place has now become unnecessary. Nothing more can be done here respecting the prisoners convicted of complicity in the Batak massacres; the Commission, as I have already had the honour to report, has passed sentence on them, and it is for the Porte to decide whether these sentences shall be executed or not.

The Commission may possibly stay on for some little time longer, but it is not likely that it will try any more persons for the atrocities committed last year.

Ismail Agha and Adil Agha, who destroyed Boriovo and Dedovo, have never been arrested, and their elder brother Tumbrushli Achmet Agha, who was arrested and examined for his share in the destruction of Peroustitza, will certainly not be punished, as it would probably be impossible to convict him without compromising Réched Pasha, and the Comission has always carefully avoided inquiry into matters in which the regular troops are in any way concerned. Thus no inquiry has been made into the conduct of Hafiz Pasha at Otlou-Keui and, though long ago, when the Commission was at Bazardjik, I strongly urged Saadoulah Bey to visit that place, he managed to avoid doing so.

For my part I consider Hafiz Pasha quite as guilty if not more so than Achmet Agha and Tossoun Bey, for his troops committed the most horrible excesses at Otlou-Keui, and he never made the smallest attempt to restrain their ferocity. On the contrary, it is said that he enriched himself considerably by the spoils of the two wealthy villages he sacked.

If the Commission cannot be congratulated on the way in which it has administered justice, it must in all fairness be said that, as regards the rebuilding of the burnt villages, it has done well enough.

I have the honour to inclose a translation of an official return drawn up a short time ago, from which it appears that considerable progress has been made.

This return I have shown to Mr. Stoney, who has visited more than half of the villages in the Cazas of Philippopolis and Bazardjik, and in most cases he declared that the figures given by the Commission tally pretty nearly exactly with his own. For some places the number of houses rebuilt was somewhat exaggerated, and in one or two instances it was understated. At Betovo (usually called Buta) the Commission claim to have built six houses, whereas, in reality, they were all constructed by Mr. Stoney.

I have no means of judging how far the returns from the Cazas of Slimnia, Isladi, and Gabrova are correct.

Besides rebuilding houses the Commission has also given a certain amount of relief in grain, cattle, and blankets, and has also distributed some waggons among the people.

On the other hand, the attempts to get the stolen property restored have usually resulted in signal failure; a small amount of cattle has been got back but little else.

As regards the women and children carried off from Batak, I believe that the greater portion of them have now returned to their homes. One girl, the daughter of a priest, is still somewhere in the neighbourhood of Nevrokop, but she cannot be traced. Two other girls became Mussulmans and refused to return to their relations as reported in my despatch of the 23rd December. Others may very likely be missing, but I cannot speak positively on the subject.

By your telegram of the 3rd instant, you instructed me to draw up a very accurate return of the number of persons killed during the insurrection, adding that many who were missing had returned to their homes, and that the number originally given had apparently been greatly overstated.

Without visiting the villages it is impossible to draw up a return of this description, and even then in the total absence of all reliable statistics a great deal must be done by guesswork. I have just received a copy of a Memorandum drawn up by Ismail Bey, on the subject of the insurrection, and I perceive that he puts the number of killed in this sandjak at 5,045, or at nearly double of what it was said to be by the earlier Turkish official reports.

To prove the general untrustworthiness of official publications in this country, I may say that the Mazbata sent to the Porte respecting the sentence on Ahmed Aga and his fellow prisoners, states that 118 Bashi-Bazouks were killed and 6 wounded in the attack on Batak! It is not necessary for me to attempt to disprove this assertion, which is simply absurd.

I have no doubt that the figures I gave in my general report may now be somewhat reduced, though I should be surprised to see them dwindle down to 3,000. If the number of killed was at first exaggerated, the Turks are just as much to blame for the exaggeration as others are. When the insurrection was suppressed, the Mussulmans openly boasted that they had decimated the Bulgarian nation. Ahmed Agha said in this town that he had only left forty people alive in Batak, and his statement was received with every mark of approbation by the Mussulman members of the Medjliss. At Constantinople I myself overheard a Turkish officer saying that in Bulgaria 60,000 people had been killed and 300 priests hung. If the Turks then indulged in these wild statements, can it be wondered at if the Christians also were guilty of exaggeration?

For my part, I have always considered that the number of persons massacred had very little to do with the actual character of the atrocities, and whether 5,000 persons perished or 15,000, the sanguinary ferocity of those who suppressed the outbreak is not diminished. The Bashi-Bazouks seem to have killed everybody they could lay hands on, and those who escaped owe their lives to their own good luck, and not to any particular feelings of clemency on the part of the Mussulmans.

I have not as yet been able carefully to study the memorandum I have mentioned above, but I think that in all probability it may be necessary for me on a subsequent occasion to make a few remarks about it. Its publication before the cases of Ahmed Agha and Tossoun Bey had been decided is, at any rate, objectionable, and it also seems strange that one member of the Commission should have taken upon himself to publish a report upon the affairs that came under the consideration of the whole body without ever consulting those who for some time had been his colleagues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 6 in No. 237.

OFFICIAL Return of Houses Rebuilt and in course of Construction.

Name of Village.	Houses before Insurrection.	Houses Burnt.	Houses Rebuilt.	Houses in course of Construction.	Huts.
Caza of Philippopolis—					
Tchemmlik Yenikeui	307	307	203	11	..
Leshnik	123	123	108	..	..
Krastova	93	76	53	5	..
Ouzoundja Gheren	122	122	88	5	..
Zendjirli	182	182	115	24	..
Cureli	134	134	94	11	25
Aivadjik	70	58	58	..	..
Saradju	50	16	3	..	..
Pastoucha	20	20	18	..	..
Kozarsko	84	84	42	36	..
Peroustitza	326	326	193	49	71
Asakhori	137	134	82	25	..
Sare Gueul	62	49	35	9	3
Strelitchko	100	84	42	38	..
Boievo	59	55	48	..	..
Prassadum Dervent	663	656	119	35	..
Dedova	79	20	..	..	..
Gundjelar	102	9	..	..	..
	2,712	2,454	1,311	248	102
Caza of Tatar-Bazardjik—					
Muslim Bega	57	56	56	..	..
Ghaïs-i Muslim Bega	65	65	65	..	..
Ali Hodja	70	69	69	..	..
Radilovo	160	160	130	..	..
Checheuzi	41	41	36	..	..
Ouyouridjilar	13	11	11	..	..
Caramoussal	174	132	118	..	..
Lesitchovo	174	69	35	..	..
Guelvero	242	109	56	..	..
Tzerovo	195	68	61	..	..
Dere Harman	29	27	27	..	..
Sirt Harman	120	42	22	..	..
Ganik Harman	172	10	10	..	..
Shallar	61	38	38	..	..
Starkovo	74	44	44	..	..
Dink-keui	56	51	51	..	..
Keupeli	77	51	31	..	..
Armaout-keui	87	47	37	..	..
Ourdjelar	53	29	26	..	..
Djamli	64	46	43	..	..
Batak	496	496	300	..	..
Streldja	316	266	50	100	..
Medjka	112	67	30	..	..
Poibrend	344	152	30	..	..
Petrich	340	243	30	..	..
Retova Baniasi	172	6	6	..	..
Retova	77	6	6	..	..
Djafferli	29	29	23	..	..
Dolnali	45	5	5	..	..
Okdjelar	45	43	32	..	..
Kalaglar	160	113	85	..	..
Palanka	7	7	..	..	..
Bratchkovo	490	7	7	..	..
Pojentzi	126	25	..	..	..
Dissevdjik	424	105	35	..	..
Orlou-Keui	1,606	118	..	..	..
	6,767	2,864	1,615	100	..
Caza of Slimnia—					
Beyadjik	Not stated	108	86	8	..
Caza of Islidi—					
Kouroutza	Not stated	7	7	..	..
Samsko	Ditto	21	21	..	..
Raslovtcha	Ditto	9	9	..	..
Rakovitza	..	97	97	..	..
Facouna	Not stated	32	..	..	..
	..	166	134	..	..

Name of Village.	Houses before Insurrection.	Houses Burnt.	Houses Rebuilt.	Houses in course of Construction.	Huts.
Caza of Selvi—					
Yenikeui	1,129	317	No return given	..	..
Denbova	454	19		..	..
Karadink	269	118		..	..
Batoschevo	645	56		..	..
Duchova	120	6		..	..
Guba	1,126	25		..	..
	3,743	641	..	..	..
Caza of Gabrova—					
Gantera	494	11	No return given	..	..
Guendjelar	177	4		..	..
	671	15	..	..	..

No. 238.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 124.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 12, 1877.

WHEN I saw Safvet Pasha two days ago, I asked his Excellency what were the intentions of the Government with regard to the Mirdites, who had, it appeared, begun to create disturbances and to threaten a breach of the peace with the Ottoman authorities.

He explained to me that Prince Bib Doda, who had left this for his own country some months ago, had been requested to remain for a while at Scutari, in order to familiarize himself with the relations maintained between his tribe and the Porte.

This, however, he had not done, but had run away shortly after his arrival, and in consequence the Porte had appointed another Kaïmakam in his place.

He appeared to treat the recent disturbances very lightly, saying that the Mirdites had blocked up a high road, and that the Porte had been obliged to send a few troops to keep it clear for traffic.

I then told his Excellency what Mr. Consul Green has reported as to the objectionable character of Sali Pacha who, instead of conciliating this tribe according to his instructions, had been exciting the Mussulman element against the Christians, and making matters worse.

I gave him a sketch of Sali Pasha's character, and he said he would inquire into the matter, and replace him by a more conscientious Commissioner.

He could not, however, promise to let Bib Doda command his tribe, as in the present excited state of the neighbouring country, and in view of the territorial cessions to be made to Prince Nicholas, the Porte, with one already on its hands, could not be expected to assist at the creation of a second Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 239.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 125. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 12, 1877.

WHILE in conversation with the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires a few days ago, I could not help remarking how extremely sensitive he appeared to be at the idea of a cession of territory to Prince Nicholas on the north-western side of the Principality.

As for the rectification in favour of Sutorina, that was, he said, quite out of the question. Austria would never allow it. Besides there was a lien on the territory in the shape of a military road which crossed into Dalmatia from Castelnuovo to Ragusa, and this, he said, the Porte had no right to alienate in favour of Montenegro or any one else without the consent of Austria.

He drew a vivid picture of the perilous position in which the Bocche di Cattaro

would be placed, were they to be surrounded on all sides by that Principality, and he took advantage of my Russian colleague being present to express his fears lest "some Great Power" friendly to the Prince, should persuade him to allow its fleet to make permanent use of its newly acquired harbour, and thus share with Austria the naval supremacy on the eastern shore of the Adriatic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 240.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 126.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 12, 1877.*

THE head of the Armenian Protestants and M. Azarian, the Vicar of Monsignore Hassoun, called upon me the other day and expressed their anxiety that the Porte should take steps to provide for the representation of their respective Churches in the Chamber of Deputies about to assemble next month.

The Protestant Armenians number about 40,000, and the Hassounists nearly 100,000, and as the Constitution makes no provision for any religious community, but only for the population at large, I took the opportunity of mentioning the matter to Safvet Pasha.

His Excellency appeared to admit the justice of the claim, both as regards Protestants and Roman Catholics, and making a note of what I said, he promised to bring the subject before the Council which is to meet this week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

No. 241.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 11. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, February 10, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7 of the 7th instant, transmitting to your Lordship copies of telegrams between the Prince of Montenegro and the Grand Vizier, I have the honour to state that it now seems that "the propositions formerly made" by the Prince, to which the Grand Vizier refers, were contained in a note addressed by His Highness to the Porte in July, 1875. These propositions relate to the establishment of a *modus vivendi* in regard to commercial affairs, the exercise of jurisdiction, and the right of way and of communication. They were drafted by M. Jonine, and no draft can be found here, but a telegram has been sent to Ragusa, requesting that an examination of the Archives of the Consulate there may be made, and the draft forwarded, as soon as found, to Cettigné.

The Prince, who is still absent a long day's journey from this place, is much annoyed at the contretemps, and telegraphed yesterday—too late—strict orders that it should be kept a profound secret from Colonel Thömmel and myself, the only foreign Agents now here.

His Highness will not, in my opinion, consent to treat at Constantinople. It is natural that he should prefer to negotiate at Cettigné, not only on account of the prestige which would attach to that arrangement, but because he, as a matter of fact, concentrates in himself the exclusive direction of every detail of domestic and foreign policy. He, however, proposes Vienna as a compromise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 242.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 136.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 10, 1877.*

WITH reference to Mr. Monson's telegram of the 9th instant, respecting certain proposals made to the Porte by Montenegro in June, 1875, and referred to in Mr. Jocelyn's

telegram of February 7th, as having been made last summer, and which the Porte wishes to be discussed during the negotiations for peace, I understand that they refer to facilities to be afforded to Prince Nicholas for communicating with the Governors of the adjacent Turkish Provinces for arranging frontier difficulties, and also to rules which he wished to be established for regulating the navigation of the Bojano.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 243.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 147.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 13, 1877.*

AN Aide-de-camp of the Sultan named Suleiman Bey arrived here two days ago, as I am informed by the Turkish Ambassador, on his way to Berlin and Paris to consult an oculist.

I have ascertained, however, that he was received yesterday by Count Andrassy, when he delivered a letter to his Excellency, which the Sultan had addressed to the Emperor, but my informant states that it had no reference to politics and was merely one of courtesy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 244.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 160.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 16, 1877.*

I TOOK an opportunity this morning of communicating to Baron Orczy the substance of your telegram of yesterday, acquainting me with the explanations which you had given to Count Schouvaloff, for Her Majesty's Government not answering immediately the Russian Circular of the 31st ultimo.

Baron Orczy said that he believed there was a general disposition among the Powers not to answer it hastily, and that Count Andrassy had as yet taken no decision as to how or when he would do so, his Excellency being apparently anxious to ascertain first the views of other Governments, and how far the question may be influenced by recent events.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 245.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 161.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 16, 1877.*

WITH reference to the negotiations between the Porte and the Prince of Montenegro, I am told here that the decision of neither party is likely to be much influenced by the possibility of a change in the situation being effected by military means.

The Prince appears determined to keep the territory which he and his insurgent allies now hold, as he believes that the Porte cannot expel them from it; and the Porte on the other hand is convinced that if hostilities are resumed, His Highness could not make further important conquests, as his troops are not adapted for warfare in an open country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 246.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 162.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February 16, 1877.*

WITH reference to Mr. Monson's telegram to your Lordship dated yesterday, in which he states that the Prince of Montenegro represents Servia to be pledged not to make a definitive peace except in concert with Montenegro, I addressed a private telegram to Mr. Monson expressing my personal opinion that, under present circumstances, whatever engagement may have been come to between the two Principalities before commencing hostilities against the Porte, Prince Nicholas could not expect Servia to delay securing peace for herself, because her doing so might advance his interests; the fortune of war having, it appeared to me, relieved Servia from an engagement which could only be binding on a successful belligerent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 247.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 168.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February 13, 1877.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 45, on the subject of the extent and cost of the relief afforded by the Austro-Hungarian Government to refugees from the Turkish provinces, who have escaped to the Slavonian and Dalmatian frontier, I am informed by Baron Orczy that the sum expended in allowances for food to these persons, from the beginning of the insurrection to the present time, amounts to 2,800,000 florins, or at the present rate of exchange to about 240,000*l.*, independently of expenses incurred in affording them medical relief, and in sending doctors to Montenegro and the Herzegovina during an epidemic brought on by destitution. His Excellency also stated that large quantities of old clothing, blankets, and tents for military stores were sent by order of the Emperor for the use of the refugees, and that as many as 4,500 blankets were forwarded on one occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 248.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 3.)

My Lord, *Tunis, February 12, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, having had occasion to wait upon the Bey, General Khaïreddin, who was not present on account of indisposition, desired to see me at his house, when he informed me that the French Chargé d'Affaires had called on his Highness in the course of the morning, to acquaint him that General Rustem, his Envoy at Constantinople, had been invited to the Council, which was held to discuss the proposals of the Conference, and that he had voted for their rejection.

In drawing the Bey's attention to this circumstance, M. Roustan made some casual observations with reference to the neutrality of the Regency and the prudence of not violating that neutrality, not to expose the Regency to an attack in the event of a war between Turkey and Russia.

His Highness replied that General Rustem had no mission beyond conveying his congratulations to the Sultan Abdul Hamid on His Majesty's accession to the throne, and that he was not aware he had attended the Grand Council to vote for the acceptance or rejection of the proposals of the Conference, regarding which matter he had no instructions whatever.

General Khaïreddin desired to know my opinion as to the object of M. Roustan in making the above communication to the Bey. I replied that it was in accordance with the policy of the French Government, which had always for object to limit and weaken as much as possible the relations of his Highness with his Suzerain.

As Turkey was at the present moment undergoing a crisis, which all Mussulmans considered to be national, be it on political or religious grounds, it was more than probable

that an opportunity was afforded to the Tunisian Envoy to hear the deliberations of the Council on so portentous a question, and to acquaint his Highness with its decision, which concerned the future of the Ottoman Dominions, and consequently the status of the Regency.

His Excellency was too unwell to continue the conversation, but he stated that the Tunisian Government had not yet received any report on the subject from General Rustem, whose prolonged stay at Constantinople appears to give umbrage to my French and Italian colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 249.

Mr. Edwardes to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, February 20.)

(No. 5.)

Sir, *Vienna, February 15, 1877.*

AFTER the victories over the Servian arms gained last autumn by the Turks under Abdul Kerim Pasha, the students of the Hungarian University at Pesth, in order to show their sympathy for the Porte, decided to present that General with a sword of honour. The question then arose where they should find a sword which would be worthy to be presented to such a distinguished officer; but this difficulty was solved by an offer made to them by an Hungarian gentleman, who stated that he possessed a sabre which had been handed down in his family, from generation to generation, and which had belonged to the last Turkish Pasha of Buda. He was unwilling, he said, to part with what he looked upon as a sacred relic, but in the face of the dignity of the occasion he was ready to make even a family sacrifice. The students accepted the offer thus generously made, and requested the Magyar to name the price at which he was willing to part with such an interesting historical heirloom.

The reply they received was to the effect that although such an article was priceless, the sword should become theirs for the purpose indicated, for what appeared to most people the somewhat extravagant sum of about 17,000 florins.

The students were of opinion that their means would not allow of this outlay, and it was then determined that this sword, valuable, according to its owner, both on account of its historical relations and as a work of art, should be submitted for examination and valuation to two experts. This was accordingly done, and the latter very soon decided that the weapon was a somewhat antiquated "couteau de chasse," which would have been overpaid at a hundredth part of the sum demanded.

The students, thrown on their own resources, then ordered a very handsome sword to be made, which a deputation chosen from among themselves took to Constantinople and presented to Abdul Kerim Pasha, expressing, at the same time, the closest ties of sympathy on the part of Hungary for the Ottoman Empire.

On the 11th instant the deputation returned to Buda-Pesth, and I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency a detailed account of the display of demonstration which met them on their arrival, as reported in the "Correspondance Autrichienne."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. EDWARDES.

No. 250.

M. Gennadius to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

My Lord, *London, February 17, 1877.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of the 14th instant, and I shall transmit a copy of that despatch to His Majesty's Government at Athens, drawing their attention to the fact that the information which has reached your Lordship corroborates the statement of the Hellenic Vice-Consul at Cavalla in so far as it attributes the attack and the murders perpetrated on the Christians of Bouloustra to Albanians addicted to brigandage, who, in that part of the country, are, as a rule, of the Mahommedan persuasion, and of whom the retinue of the rich Mussulman landowners is usually composed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

No. 251.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 48.)
Rome, February 17, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that in an interview which I had yesterday with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I acquainted his Excellency with the terms of the reply given by your Lordship to the Russian Ambassador in London in reference to Prince Gortchakow's Circular of the 19th of January, as stated in your Lordship's telegram to me of the 15th instant, and his Excellency informed me that his reply to the Russian Ambassador here, which he had subsequently made known to the Italian Ambassador in St. Petersburgh, had been in the same sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 252.

Messrs. Michaeloff, Totu, and Co., to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 20.)

Manchester, February 19, 1877.

MESSRS. MICHAELOFF, TOTU and CO. have the honour to inclose herewith a letter for the Right Honourable the Earl of Derby, which they have this day received for "transmission" from their friends, Messrs. D. Zancoff and M. D. Balabanow, the late Bulgarian delegates.

Inclosure 1 in No. 252.

MM. Zankoff and Balabanow to the Earl of Derby.

Vienne, le 15 Février, 1877.

Excellence,

AU moment où le Gouvernement Turc fait tant parler de sa Constitution, il n'est certainement pas sans intérêt d'apprendre comment ce Gouvernement en use avec la population Bulgare à l'effet de la contraindre à s'en déclarer complètement satisfaite.

Les deux délégués Bulgares, D. Zancoff et Marco D. Balabanow, qui ont eu déjà l'insigne honneur de présenter oralement à votre Excellence la triste situation, ainsi que les vœux légitimes de leur nation, viennent de recevoir des habitants Bulgares du district de Tatar-Bazardjik, qui a, comme on sait, le plus souffert des atrocités commises en Bulgarie par les Turcs, une supplique en six copies, avec prière de la remettre aux Six Grandes Puissances. Cette supplique, écrite en Bulgare et portant un grand nombre de signatures, est un des meilleurs commentaires des réformes factices, par lesquelles le Gouvernement Turc a cru pouvoir triompher des décisions unanimes des Grandes Puissances.

Nous acquittant du devoir sacré, dont nous sommes chargés de la part de nos mandants du district de Tatar-Bazardjik, nous nous empressons de mettre sous les yeux de votre Excellence, une des copies originales de cette supplique en la faisant accompagner de l'annexe d'une traduction Française. Nous avons la ferme conviction, que votre Excellence voudra bien en prendre acte dans l'intérêt de notre malheureuse nation, aujourd'hui encore sans cesse exposée, de la part de son Gouvernement même, à toute sorte de méfaits, de violences, d'excès, de perquisitions, de souffrances et de fourberies.

Nous prions votre Excellence de vouloir bien en agréer d'avance, au nom de cette nation, notre plus profonde gratitude, et nous avons, &c.,

(Signé) MARCO D. BALABANOW.
D. ZANCOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 252.

Petition.

Excellence,

DE même qu'après tous les Actes et Firmans, émanés jusqu'aujourd'hui du Sultan, comme le Hati-Chérif du 1839 et le Hati-Houmaïoun du 1856, les méfaits et les actes

de violence exercés toujours de la part de la population Turque contre nous autres Bulgares n'ont pas cessé; de même aujourd'hui encore, après la solennelle proclamation de la Constitution Ottomane, qui promet l'égalité de tous les sujets sans aucune distinction, ces méfaits et ces actes de violence continuent à s'exercer contre nous, et même avec une rage beaucoup plus grande qu'auparavant.

Entre nous Bulgares et les Musulmans il n'existe aucune égalité ni dans l'exercice de la foi, ni au point de vue de la vie nationale. Les Musulmans nous ont toujours considérés comme des êtres inférieurs à eux, comme leurs esclaves, sur lesquels ils se sont constamment cru le droit de pouvoir exercer toutes sortes de méfaits et d'excès de la nature de ceux dont l'Europe a eu connaissance dernièrement.

Un grand nombre d'Actes et de Firmans ont été, à plusieurs reprises, promulgués jusqu'aujourd'hui par le Sultan, et un plus grand nombre encore d'ordres et d'instructions ont été expédiés aux gouverneurs; mais rien de tout cela n'a été tenu, rien n'a été mis à exécution. Le Sultan a toujours été représenté comme étant animé d'un profond amour de tous ses sujets sans distinction de race ni de religion. Toutefois nous soutenons que tout ça est toujours resté écrit seulement sur papier.

Maintenant encore, où, d'une part, le Sultan proclame l'égalité et la sécurité pour tous ses sujets, et, de l'autre, le Grand Vézir assure que tout cela sera exécuté, la pauvre population Bulgare continue à être exposée à toute sorte d'abus de la part des Musulmans, et nous voyons que l'amour du Sultan pour tous ses sujets, si beau en théorie, revêtit dans la pratique la forme d'une constante oppression, traduite parfois en massacres. Malgré tout cela le Gouvernement Turc fait aujourd'hui des efforts, comme c'est son habitude après la promulgation d'un Firman quelconque, afin d'extorquer de ses sujets des adresses de remerciments pour la proclamation de la Constitution Ottomane. Une adresse de ce genre a été faite par la population Musulmane de notre région, et cette adresse, le Gouvernement a forcé les Bulgares aussi à la signer bon gré mal gré.

Toutefois nous, Bulgares, qui formons la majorité dans le district de Tatar-Bazardjik, quoique nous ayons, contre notre conscience, signé, sous l'empire de la force et de la peur, une pareille adresse, nous déclarons à votre Excellence que, n'ajoutant aucune foi aux promesses constitutionnelles du Gouvernement Ottoman, nous protestons contre la façon dont le Gouvernement Turc a usé pour extorquer forcément nos signatures que nous considérons, par conséquent, comme n'ayant jamais eu lieu. Nous avons la ferme conviction qu'en dehors des projets des Grandes Puissances, il ne peut pas y avoir d'autres réformes de nature à rendre la population Bulgare heureuse. Nous ne pouvons jamais être contents de la Constitution Ottomane.

Nous prions très-humblement votre Excellence de prendre en considération les vœux et les convictions de toute la population Bulgare. Nous comptons sur les efforts d'humanité et sur les soins, dont font preuve à l'égard de notre nation les Puissances Européennes, et nous sommes en toute obéissance.

Les habitants Chrétiens Bulgares de Tartar-Bazardjik
et de son district.
(Suivant un grand nombre de signatures de villages
et de particuliers.)

No. 253.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1877, 12·20 P.M.

IT is stated in a report from the "Times" correspondent at Pera dated 16th of February and published this morning, that Shefket Pasha has left Constantinople to take charge of an army corps on the Danube.

Her Majesty's Government can scarcely believe that this can be true. Pray ascertain and telegraph reply.

No. 254.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1877, 3 P.M.

MUSURUS PASHA told me on the 18th instant that the Porte would have great difficulty in inflicting capital punishment on those convicted of massacres and atrocities in Bulgaria.

He hoped that public opinion in England would be satisfied with a minor punishment.

I instanced, in reply, what had been done in the case of the Lebanon massacres, and I said if Chefket Pasha, whom he mentioned, was guilty of crimes attributed to him, nothing short of death would be considered adequate punishment here. If capital sentence in case of those most deeply implicated is commuted to hard labour for life, there will be a general feeling of indignation, and no one will believe that it is not intended to remit the sentence altogether in a short time.

You should warn the Porte seriously of the danger they will run by such a course.

No. 255.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1877, 5·50 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of the 19th instant you may speak to Grand Vizier in support of a Commission for the Drina frontier if you think it will facilitate an agreement.

No. 256.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 20.)

Vienna, February 20, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THERE is a general impression here that Russia is about to declare war to Turkey, and I am told by a person from whom I have frequently received correct information as to coming events that the impending war will be confined to Asia, where desirable conquests, to which it is hoped Europe will be indifferent, may be made.

No. 257.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 88.) *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1877.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador informed me on the 18th instant that the Porte would have great difficulty in inflicting capital punishment on those convicted of massacres and atrocities in Bulgaria.

His Excellency expressed the hope that public opinion in England would be satisfied with a minor punishment.

In reply, I instanced what had been done in the case of the Lebanon massacres, and I said that if Chefket Pasha, whom he mentioned, was guilty of the crimes attributed to him, nothing short of death would be considered adequate punishment here.

I added that if capital sentence is commuted in the case of those most deeply implicated to hard labour for life, there will be a general feeling of indignation, and no one will believe that it is not intended to remit the sentence altogether in a short time.

I have to instruct you to warn the Porte seriously of the danger they will run by adopting such a course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 258.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 90.) *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of the 19th instant on the subject of the peace negotiations between the Porte and Servia; and, in reply, I have to state to you that I authorize you to speak to the Grand Vizier in support of a Commission for the Drina frontier, if you think that it will facilitate an agreement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 259.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 9.) *Scutari, February* 10, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have been informed that steps are being taken by the authorities here, in compliance with orders received from Constantinople, to find a suitable locality between the towns of Tirana and Durazzo for the establishment of a Circassian Colony, to consist of sixty families.

I understand that the inhabitants of the district in question are not much pleased with the prospect of having Circassians in their midst, especially as the Government has directed that the colonists are not to be weakened by being distributed in small batches in the Albanian villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 260.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February 21.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 20 *Février*, 1877.

D'APRES nos renseignements, des bruits alarmants sur l'état de santé de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan sont répandus dans toute la presse Européenne. Il y a quelque temps Sa Majesté souffrait d'un mal de dent; mais depuis, ce mal a disparu, et l'état de santé de notre auguste Maître est parfait.

Veuillez bien démentir formellement les bruits répandus à cet égard.

No. 261.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 94.) *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1877.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and read to me a telegram from his Government, in which great anxiety is expressed as to the intentions of Austria, and attention is called to the military preparations being made by that Power on the Turkish frontier. He asked me very earnestly whether I knew or believed that the Austrian Government intended to join Russia in making war on the Porte.

I said in reply, that I knew nothing as to the Austrian intentions, and could offer only conjectures as to the course which might be taken at Vienna. I believed that the Austrian Government did not wish for, and would not promote any disturbance of the general peace; but in the event of war being declared by Russia, it seemed to me not impossible that Austria might think the opportunity favourable for an acquisition of territory.

The Turkish Ambassador pressed me strongly to give advice at Vienna in the interest of peace. I said I should be willing to do so on a fitting occasion, but at present I had no facts before me which would justify the offer of unasked warnings against an intention, the existence of which would no doubt be denied.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 262.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 47. Very Confidential.)

Foreign Office, February 21, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and spoke to me at length on the stage at which the question in regard to Turkey had arrived; and I have thought it desirable to place the more important of his observations on record.

He said that the Russian Government were in a position of considerable difficulty towards their own people. The expense and inconvenience of keeping up their armaments on the present footing was very great, and could not be continued indefinitely. On the other hand, unless public opinion could be satisfied by the announcement of some specific advantage that had been gained by the demonstration, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to proceed to demobilize the forces which had been placed on a war footing; and even the Minister of Finance, who was necessarily most alive to the disadvantages of the present situation, would prefer a speedy campaign to the alternative of disarmament, with the possible necessity of a fresh mobilization next year.

Count Schouvaloff then spoke of the proposal made by Midhat Pasha to Sir Henry Elliot (and to which I had alluded in the House of Lords last night), that a fixed time, say a year, should be granted to the Porte for carrying out the reforms, and that if at the end of that period it were found that fair progress had not been made, the Turkish Government would be ready to submit to the appointment of an International Commission or such other form of control as might be held desirable.

His Excellency seemed to think favourably of the idea, and to believe that in some arrangement of this kind the groundwork for a settlement might be found.

He said that the Russian Government had had many difficulties to deal with during the last few months, but that he believed that the public in Russia were now tired of the whole question; that the burden and expense of the mobilization had been fully realized; and he added that, if the Russian forces were once restored to a peace footing, he did not think there would be any inclination to war for ten years to come.

Count Schouvaloff said that he did not consider it necessary that in the reply to be given to the Circular of Prince Gortchakow there should be any indication of an intention to resort eventually to united measures of coercion against the Porte. It would, in his opinion, be sufficient that the reply should be so conceived as not to imply that Russia was to be left to herself to secure what advantages she deemed necessary for the Christian populations of Turkey.

Speaking of the disposition of other Powers in regard to this matter, he said that he believed Prince Bismarck would prefer the outbreak of war, and he thought the reasons for this were perfectly clear. During the course of the last five years the German Chancellor had become convinced that a mistake had been made in the terms with which Germany had been satisfied at the conclusion of the war with France; that twice the amount of pecuniary indemnity should have been required, and the German forces should have been left in occupation of French territory for twice as long a time as had been stipulated.

Prince Bismarck would be glad, therefore, to see other Powers occupied in a struggle in Eastern Europe, in order that he might have full liberty to attack France, and exact from her what conditions he thought desirable, without the risk of interference.

The war between Russia and Turkey, if it did break out, was therefore likely to involve the greater part of Europe.

In the view above mentioned, however, Count Schouvaloff believed that the German Government stood alone.

The Governments of the other Powers—Austria, France, and Italy—would be ready to join with Her Majesty's Government in a reply to the Russian Circular in the sense he had mentioned. If England held aloof those Powers might still not improbably return answers more or less friendly to Russia; but he felt convinced that Her Majesty's Government would meet with no opposition from them in any efforts they might think it right to make to secure for Russia an honourable retreat from her present position.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 262*.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 47 A.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 21, 1877.

WITH reference to the report of my conversation with the Russian Ambassador contained in my other despatch of this day's date, I have to add that it is understood by Her Majesty's Government that the object of the Russian Government is to secure an honourable retreat from their present position.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 263.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, February 20, 1877.*

ALTHOUGH the authorities deny it, matters in Miridicia are menacing, and, moreover, more troops and artillery were dispatched in the direction of the disturbed district.

No. 264.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 20, 1877, midnight.*

I COMMUNICATED to the Grand Vizier substance of your telegram of the 18th instant, and he has offered the following explanations of the points on which information is required:—

He considers that a sufficient guarantee against arbitrary removal of the Valis is provided by the 39th Article of the Constitution, and the control of the Provincial Assemblies over the direct taxation is assured by the 110th Article, which, moreover, is one of the provisions of the Andrassy Note, to which he adheres.

Orders have been already given to enrol Christian as well as Mussulman volunteers in the police force now being reorganized. Proportion between them will be regulated with a view to maintaining its efficiency—the best men alone being selected without regard to creed. Porte is still in search of foreigners to assist in this work, and I understand that both English and French retired officers have been applied to.

His Highness could engage, he said, that, as henceforth, no special allotments of land or other privileges generally given to colonists would be granted to Circassians; nothing in the shape of colonization could in future take place: but he could no more prevent Circassian families from changing their domicile, or purchasing property, than any other subjects of the Sultan.

With regard to the amnesty, as he must refer to documents bearing on the subject, he must delay his answer for a few days.

Salvet Pasha, however, was yesterday inclined to take your Lordship's view of the matter, and said that the more heinous crimes should be separately classified and dealt with later.

Commission of Control will be elective; but his Highness considers that there will be no practical utility to be derived from it until the laws, regulations, and reforms it is intended to superintend have received the assent of the Parliament.

I cannot answer the last paragraph* of your telegram until I have seen Foreign Minister, who was to-day closely engaged with Servian Envoy, and unable to receive me.

No. 265.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 21, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, February 20, 1877, 3 P.M.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW told me yesterday that he considered peace as good as concluded between the Porte and Servia and Montenegro.

He evinced some impatience for an answer to his Circular, saying Russian mobilization costs thirteen million roubles monthly, and that the present position could not be prolonged indefinitely.

He expressed entire confidence in Prince Bismarck and in the friendly attitude of Germany, observing that Prussia would hold to her traditional policy towards Russia. He had received no answer from Vienna, but was daily expecting one.

Prince Gortchakow seemed much discouraged by intelligence from London and by report of Friday's discussion in the House of Commons on the Treaty of Paris.

He observed that if Turkey felt secure from coercive measures the influence of Europe would be paralysed.

He declined to say what course Russia would take, spoke vaguely and mysteriously, hinted at withdrawal from European concert.

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* This refers to "nature of measures to be proposed to Chamber of Deputies."—T.

No. 266.

*Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received February* 21, *at night.*)

Scutari, February 21, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

MY French and Italian colleagues concur with me in considering the state of affairs among the Christian tribes critical, and that continued dispatch of troops to the confines of Mirídicia will probably lead to a speedy conflict.

They have telegraphed to their respective Governments this day, stating that if the Porte permits the authorities here to pursue their present aggressive course, the insurrection may shortly assume serious proportions.

No. 267.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 1. Political.)

Salonica, February 10, 1877.

My Lord,

THIS town is quiet, and from all I hear, a similar state prevails in the surrounding country, where fewer violations of the law have been reported than during the previous month. It also seems that within the last three or four weeks a more friendly feeling has been generated between the Turks and Christians in this place.

The leading men with whom I have conversed, and the people in general here, manifest much surprise and some irritation at the sudden dismissal of Midhat Pasha from the Grand Vizierate, in whom they had full confidence that he would carry out reforms.

The prevailing impression here is—especially among the Turks, that the fall of this popular statesman has been prepared and effected by the Sultan's immediate entourage.

In case there is any demonstration at Constantinople in favour of Midhat Pasha, the popular feeling at Salonica would, I think, coincide with it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 268.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 2. Political.)

Salonica, February 12, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, extracts from two letters which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, respecting the state of affairs in Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 268.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

Larissa, January 25, 1877.

(Extract.)

DURING the recent Orthodox holidays, the Greek Archbishop here, while making his round of visits in the Christian quarter, was jeered at by a knot of Turkish small boys, very children. The reverend prelate himself took no notice of the fact, as utterly insignificant, but it gave offence to some officious worthies of his flock, who made a business of it, and complained to the authorities, who promptly afforded redress not by punishing the almost infant delinquents, but some of their parents, with imprisonment. The incident was a trivial one without any importance whatever, but there is no lack here of busy-bodies anxious to make capital out of everything to prejudice the Turks, and as these have tried to make a notice about and magnify the affair, I mention what

* Repeated to Rome and Constantinople.

occurred, lest idle and exaggerated rumours connected with it "of disturbances here" may chance to have reached you. We in fact, on the contrary, are continuing to enjoy quiet in all directions, nor is there so far, any indication of change in this respect.

Nothing certain yet transpires of what turn affairs will take, and a general uneasy feeling prevails in consequence; but everybody seems content to wait patiently the upshot.

While Hellenic preparations continue to be talked of, none seem apprehended by the Porte.

Seven battalions form the whole of the regular troops at present in Thessaly, a force totally inadequate to face any aggressive movement, were such feared on this side.

Inclosure 2 in No. 268.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

Larissa, February 8, 1877.

(Extract.)

A REPORT reached this yesterday that Midhat, having resigned or been removed from the Grand Viziership, is succeeded by Edhem Pasha, late Ambassador at Berlin, and recently one of the Ottoman Delegates at the Conference; and much curiosity, not unmingled with some anxiety, is entertained as to the causes of this abrupt change, so close upon the break-up of that Assembly and the departure of the foreign Plenipotentiaries and resident Ambassadors. Edhem Pasha is well known here, where he governed during the Cretan insurrection, and although admitted to be a good and able man, is hardly deemed to be the best fitted one, under present ticklish circumstances, for the task before him.

There have been rumours current of reviving brigandage on this side of the Turco-Greek border, but diligent inquiry assures they are unfounded or exaggerated, and have arisen from sheep-stealing or petty depredations of the half-nomad dwellers near the boundary, who more or less always are, and always will be, laying their agricultural village neighbours under that sort of contribution.

Last week some excitement was created at Volo, by a report spread that a brigand from Greece, Photi by name, with several followers, had landed there not far from the town, and meditated carrying off hostages for ransom from the local boys' school. A battue of the troops, gendarmes, and some inhabitants, scoured the country then and for several days after in vain search of these marauders, and as no trace of them has been come at, and they have done no act, it seems clear that the scare must have been due to some panic or mistake, if not to an absolute hoax.

No. 269.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 12. Political.)

Cettigné, February 11, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inclose copies of further telegrams exchanged between the Porte and Montenegro respecting the bases of negotiation.

These telegrams were only communicated to Colonel Thömmel and myself by the Prince's Secretary this afternoon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 269.

The Grand Vizier to the Prince of Montenegro.

Constantinople, le 8 *Février*, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir le télégramme de votre Altesse, en date du 7 Février. La Sublime Porte a pris acte avec satisfaction des dispositions de votre Altesse au sujet

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du rétablissement de la paix sur la base du *status quo ante bellum*, avec rectification des frontières. Quant aux propositions mentionnées dans mon premier télégramme, et sur lesquelles nous nous sommes engagés à nous entendre définitivement avec votre Altesse, elles sont spécifiées dans la lettre adressée au Grand Vizierat [illegible] 1875.

J'ai l'honneur de transmettre ces explications à votre Altesse, et j'attends sa réponse pour résoudre aussi le point relatif à l'envoi de délégué.

Inclosure 2 in No. 269.

The Prince of Montenegro to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, le 10 Février*, 1877.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir votre dépêche du 8 courant, et viens informer votre Altesse que je suis toujours disposé à traiter sur la base du *status quo ante bellum*, moyennant modification des frontières, et de conclure un mode de vivre dans l'esprit de mes propositions du [illegible] 1875. J'espère que la Sublime Porte voudra bien prendre une décision prochaine en faveur des négociations à Vienne par l'intermédiaire de son Ambassadeur.

No. 270.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 13. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, February 11, 1877.*

AFTER writing to your Lordship my despatch No. 11 of yesterday's date, which I forwarded by the early post to Vienna, I felt anxious to do what I could to expedite the decision of the Prince and his advisers in regard to the proposals of the Porte.

I have now had experience enough of Cettigné to know that in the absence of His Highness it is nearly impossible to inspire any energy into the action of those who are supposed to conduct the business of the Government; but, in view of the length of time which has already elapsed since the first overtures were made from Constantinople, it seemed to me to be becoming urgent, for the satisfaction of the Great Powers and in the true interests of Montenegro itself, that at least a display of greater readiness should be made and some amount of anxiety manifested to abbreviate the period of suspense and uncertainty.

Having communicated these views to Colonel Thömmel, who cordially entered into and encouraged them, I called at the house of M. Bogio Petrovich, President of the Senate, who, in the absence of the Prince, his cousin, is the person of most consideration in Cettigné; and having been kept waiting for some time, was informed that he was slightly indisposed and could not receive me. M. Radonich, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, was not to be found when I went to look for him; and M. Duby, the Prince's Secretary, to whom I was finally forced to address myself, took refuge in subterfuge when I remonstrated upon the general dilatoriness and the unbusiness-like conduct of the preliminary negotiations.

During the course of yesterday afternoon the Prince telegraphed to his Secretary that he should communicate to Colonel Thömmel and myself the telegrams of which copies are transmitted to your Lordship in my immediately preceding despatch. M. Duby was with us for two or three hours in the evening, but he not only did not obey His Highness's orders then, but actually delayed doing so until after 12 o'clock this morning; and when my Austrian colleague and I remarked upon the delay, excused himself angrily upon grounds the very reverse of the truth.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 271.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 14. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, February 12, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 4th instant, reporting a conversation which I had had with Prince Nicholas respecting the mutilations of Turkish soldiers by Montenegrins, I have the honour to state that Colonel Thömmel informs me that he has addressed a full report to Count Andrassy upon this subject, upon which his presence at the Prince's head-quarters during most of the campaign, and his acquaintance with the country for the last twenty years enable him to speak with more authority than I can pretend to claim.

I have reason, however, to believe that the gist of his opinion, formed from personal observation and the information of trustworthy individuals, is to the effect that comparatively little reproach on the score of inhumanity can fairly be made against the Montenegrins for their conduct in the recent combats; and that he substantially confirms the Prince's statements as I have reported them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 272.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 15. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, February 12, 1877.*

M. DE WESSILITZKY, who made himself so conspicuous last year as the diplomatic representative of the Herzegovinian insurgents, visited Cettigné last week. Prince Nicholas, upon hearing the tidings of his coming, expressed but little satisfaction thereat, and accorded "his princely ally"—in sarcastic reference to M. de Wessilitzky's pretensions to the "crown of Trebigné"—a polite but frigid welcome.

His Highness, in the presence of a large party, could not refrain from joking his guest upon the exceptional gorgeousness of his attire, a very handsomely embroidered Montenegrin costume, the purchase of which had, it was maliciously suggested, diverted from its proper destination the price of several thousand okes of grain. The dazzling brilliancy of these garments was enhanced by the decoration of St. Alexander Newsky, which has, it appears, been the crowning triumph of M. de Wessilitzky's recent journey to St. Petersburgh.

In spite, however, of all these glories, M. de Wessilitzky is a disappointed man; and in a long conversation with which he honoured me, indulged in much mournful reflection upon the way in which he had been "désillusionné" by the course of events. I doubt his being of much further use as a Russian agent, or even as the philanthropic representative of the Slav Committees; but his journalistic correspondence will probably continue to convey to the Russian public a very unfounded idea of the valour, sagacity, importance, and consideration of the author.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 273.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 22.)

My Lord, *Athens, February 15, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting-Consul in Crete, relative to the state of affairs in that island.

M. Contostavlos informed me on Monday last, that the accounts which he had just received from the Hellenic Consul at Canea also represented that there seemed no longer reason to apprehend any immediate outbreak on the part of the Christian population, and I believe that the Hellenic Government have been really anxious to prevent any such

outbreak, which would be a serious embarrassment and danger to Greece under present circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure in No. 273.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Stuart.

Canea, Crete, February 5, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 20th ultimo, addressed to Mr. Consul Sandwith, and to say that there are different versions given of the Oath of Brotherhood, as I had the honour to report to the Earl of Derby by last post.

They, the Christians, declare this oath to have for object to bind one another from committing depredations on one another's property in sheep, cattle, &c. because a great number of the rural population have been punished by exile for such acts, and now, on their return, declaring their innocence, have given and exacted from their brethren, an oath of mutual fraternal abstinence from cattle lifting.

At present there does not appear to be any symptoms of insurrection, the signal for which (all here agree) must come from Athens. The Governor-General does not apprehend any disturbances. He has taken precautionary measures which he thinks quite sufficient.

His Excellency will not remain here; he declares he will send in his resignation if he be not relieved from this onerous charge, under which he has been placed for the third time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 274.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 170.) *Vienna, February* 19, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Monson's despatch No. 15 of the 12th instant, on the subject of M. Wessilitzky's visit to Cettigné, I understand that that gentlemen, having spoken indiscreetly of his pretensions, as the descendant of the former Princes of Trebigné, excited so much dissatisfaction among the Montenegrins that, with a view to his personal safety, he has deemed it prudent to return to Ragusa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 275.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 21, 1877, 7 P.M.
(Confidential.)

M. CHRISTICS communicated to me confidentially this morning the result of his first interview with Minister for Foreign Affairs.

He found him apparently very anxious for a settlement, but on one or two points a difference of opinion had been expressed.

Porte claimed a more absolute right of prohibiting the meeting of secret societies than Servia could accede to, and had not sufficiently specified its wishes on the subject.

The conversation has also turned upon the nature of the instrument which was to record the reconciliation of Servia to her Suzerain, the Porte insisting upon a note to be addressed by the Prince to the Government of the Sultan, while Servia is only willing to record her new engagements in a Protocol to be signed by both parties.

This may prove a difficulty, as well as the question of the Drina frontier, a point not yet discussed, but which M. Christics appears determined either to maintain, or, if conceded, to exact a corresponding advantage in return for it.

The conversation was, however, merely preliminary, and the first regular meeting will take place to-morrow.

No. 276.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February* 21, 1877, 8 P.M.

A JEW was here yesterday elected member of Grand National Assembly. The Servian Government thereby show a desire to meet the wishes of Porte and to facilitate negotiations.

No. 277.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Pera, February* 21, 1877, 11·50 P.M.

BESIDES communicating to Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning the substance of your telegram of yesterday respecting the execution of capital sentences on the authors of Bulgarian atrocities convicted by the Commission, I thought it might be desirable that the Sultan should be directly informed of the feeling prevailing in England with regard to these executions.

A summary of the telegram was accordingly communicated through a confidential channel to His Majesty, whose reply was that "every attention should be paid to Lord Derby's representations."

No. 278.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1877, 2 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government approve your having communicated substance of my telegram of the 20th instant to the Sultan.

You cannot too strongly impress upon the Porte the feeling which prevails in England among all classes in regard to the atrocities.

No. 279.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22, 7 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, February* 22, 1877, 4·15 P.M.

FOLLOWING is the précis of the paragraph respecting foreign affairs in the Emperor's Speech opening the Reichstag this day:—

Germany is less liable than other Powers to possible dangers which might arise from the still unsettled Eastern crisis. My policy in this question has never varied. The Conference has not succeeded in persuading the Porte to adopt the measures decided upon as advisable; the negotiations have, however, resulted in uniting the Christian Powers among themselves as to the measure of the guarantees to be demanded from the Porte —a condition of circumstances which had never been hitherto achieved. On this basis we can hope that peace will be maintained among the Powers, even if the hope should not be realized that the Porte should execute of her own accord the reforms concerning the treatment of her Christian subjects, which were recognized by the Conference as a European necessity. Should, however, the expectations remain unfulfilled which have been attached to the hints given the Porte in this direction, as well as to the commencement of peace negotiations with Servia and Montenegro, my Government will for the future, as in the past, strive to use her influence in this question, in which German interests do not prescribe a special line of conduct, for the protection of the Christians in Turkey, and for the preservation of European peace; especially, however, for the conservation and consolidation of her own good relations with allied and friendly nations.

No. 280.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 46. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, February 22, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE placed in the hands of the Russian Ambassador two memoranda, of which I inclose copies herewith, giving the substance of the information which the Turkish Government have furnished partly to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople and partly to me, through the Ottoman Ambassador here, as to the reforms which are now in course of execution in the disturbed provinces.

Count Schouvaloff said he would bring these reports confidentially to the knowledge of his Government, and he seemed to think that they would produce a favourable impression.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 280.

Memorandum of further Explanations given by the Grand Vizier in regard to Reforms in the disturbed Provinces.

(Confidential.)

THE Grand Vizier considers that a control by the Provincial Assemblies over a part of the proceeds of direct taxation is secured by the 110th Article of the Constitution, and it is, moreover, one of the provisions of the Andrassy Note, to which he adheres.

Orders have been already given to enrol Christian as well as Mussulman volunteers in the police force, which is being reorganized. The proportion between them will be regulated with a view to maintaining the efficiency of the force, the best men being selected without reference to creed. The Porte is still in search of foreigners to assist in the reorganization, and Mr. Jocelyn learns that retired officers of foreign armies have been applied to.

As regards the colonization of Circassians in Roumelia, the Grand Vizier said he could engage that henceforth no special allotment of land, or other privileges generally given to colonists, would be granted to Circassians; nothing, therefore, in the shape of colonization, could in future take place, but he could not prevent Circassians, any more than other subjects of the Porte, from changing their domicile or purchasing property.

There will be an elective Commission of Control to superintend the execution of the reforms, under the Presidency of a member of the Turkish Government; but the Grand Vizier considers that there will be no practical utility to be derived from it until the laws which it is intended to superintend have received the assent of the Turkish Parliament.

Inclosure 2 in No. 280.

Memorandum of Information given by the Turkish Government of Reforms in course of execution.

(Confidential.)

STEPS are being taken for the division of the provinces into communes, and the election of provincial Assemblies.

The remission of arrears of taxes for the disturbed provinces is granted.

The carrying of arms without special authorization has been henceforth prohibited, and the authorities have received categorical instructions in consequence.

The necessary measures have been taken to prevent, for the future, the colonization of Circassians in Roumelia *en masse*.

The regulations for the new gendarmerie, to be composed of Mussulmans and Christians, is already completed, and the organization of the corps is only waiting for the appointment of officers of instruction.

It has been decided that irregular troops shall not be employed for the future, except in a case of inevitable necessity (the absence of regular troops under very critical circumstances).

No. 281.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(Extract.)

Rome, February 20, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that in yesterday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies the Marquis Visconti Venosta inquired of the Government whether it was their intention to present any official documents relative to the Eastern question, to which the President of the Council, in the absence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, replied that the "Green Book" was already being prepared, and would be presented in the course of a week.

M. Visconti Venosta, in taking account of this declaration, stated that neither he nor his friends had any intention of creating embarrassments for the Government in regard to foreign affairs; but he hoped that the documents to be published would be sufficient to show the part which had been taken by Italy for ameliorating the condition of the Christians in Turkey, and for the maintenance of peace since the presentation of the Berlin Memorandum.

No. 282.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(Telegraphic.)

(Very Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 22, 1877, 10 P.M.

I AM privately informed that certain bankers at Amsterdam, through a Prussian Agent, have offered to the Russian Government a loan of 500,000,000 roubles in gold on very advantageous terms.

This offer has been declined, and the refusal is interpreted as an indication of peace.

I also learn that a Council of Ministers is to be held on Saturday, under the presidency of the Emperor, when decision as to peace or war will be taken; if the former, which is confidently expected, the demobilization of the army will be ordered immediately.

It is reported that Prince Gortchakow will retire, and be succeeded by Count Adlerberg, Minister of the Imperial household, if not immediately, at no distant date.

Emperor, I am told, will not withdraw from European concert.

No. 283.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(Telegraphic.)

Pera, February 22, 1877, 11 P.M.

I HAVE ascertained that there is no foundation for the report mentioned in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday respecting Chefket Pasha. He has received no military command.

No. 284.

*The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.**

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 23, 1877, 5·15 P.M.

USE all your efforts to secure a prudent and conciliatory course on the part of the Turkish authorities. I have telegraphed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to press the matter on the attention of the Porte.

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* Repeated to Paris and Rome.

No. 285.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1877, 6·45 P.M.

YOU should communicate the substance of Mr. Green's telegram* repeated to you this morning to the Turkish Government, and press strongly upon them the expediency of avoiding any steps that may be likely to lead to a renewal of bloodshed in any part of European Turkey.

The moment is most critical. We have reason to believe that the Russian Government are considering their course, and that it is not impossible that their decision may be in favour of peace. But a prudent and conciliatory attitude on the part of the Porte, and an encouragement to hope for real progress and reform, is absolutely necessary to enable the Emperor to satisfy Russian public opinion. An error or even a mishap in the conduct of the Turkish authorities towards the population may produce results which will be irrevocable.

The information I give you as to the Russian Government is secret, but you may mention it privately to the Grand Vizier and Foreign Minister.

No. 286.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February*, 22, 1877, 12·5 P.M.

THE principal points of divergence of opinion between Servian Envoy and Porte as brought out at yesterday's sitting are the following :—

Servia insists upon a Protocol recording peace, whilst Porte demands a note. This point has been referred to Belgrade, and if not conceded, will cause much difficulty.

Residence of Ottoman Agent at Belgrade, although granted by Servia, must not be recorded in Protocol. This the Porte may perhaps agree to, but is still holding out.

Servia also objects to amnesty to refugees being recorded in the Protocol.

Porte insists strongly upon this being done.

The Drina frontier question is as yet untouched. Porte offers a Commission to make arrangements with regard to the islands, but no territorial rectification has been discussed.

Considering her vanquished condition, Servian pretensions appear to me still high, but I think that I can perceive that M. Christics is holding much ground that he will eventually yield.

No. 287.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 4 A.) *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram of the 21st instant, reporting the critical state of affairs among the Christian tribes, I have to instruct you to use your best efforts to secure a prudent and conciliatory course on the part of the Turkish authorities.

I have sent telegraphic instructions to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, directing him to communicate the substance of your telegram to the Turkish Government, and strongly to press the matter on their attention.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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* No. 266.

No. 288.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 93 A.) *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE to instruct you to communicate to the Turkish Government the substance of Mr. Green's telegram respecting the critical state of affairs among the Christian tribes which was repeated to you this morning, and to press strongly upon the Porte the expediency of avoiding any steps that may be likely to lead to a renewal of bloodshed in any part of European Turkey.

The moment is most critical. Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that the Government of Russia are considering their course, and that it is not impossible that their decision may be in favour of peace. But to enable the Emperor to satisfy Russian public opinion, a prudent and conciliatory attitude on the part of the Porte, and an encouragement to hope for real progress and reform, is absolutely necessary. Results which will be irrevocable may be produced by an error, or even a mishap, in the conduct of the Turkish authorities towards the population.

The information which I have given you respecting the Russian Government is secret, but you may mention it privately to the Grand Vizier and to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 289.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 23.) *Tiflis, February* 9, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE been informed by good authority that the average number of persons in each battalion, including officers, is 830; that the grenadiers have 815, the batteries have 150 men. There are six batteries at Erievan. Number of mortars at Poti mentioned in my despatch No. 19 is correct. At Elizabetpol (*sic*) there are 1,200 local troops and much ammunition. Ammunition is sent from this place to Alexandrapol. 1,500 Tartars in district of Karabagh have, I am told, offered their services to Russia. Twenty waggon-loads of arms have been sent to Wankh, near Persian frontier; whether or not they are intended for these Tartars, I cannot say.

The Russians, should war occur, count upon the Turks, in the event of their being defeated, massacreing the Christians; and this, they trust, will put all Europe against them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. RICKETTS.

No. 290.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 12. Political. Confidential.)

Galatz, February 16, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 11, Political, of the 5th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, by the courtesy of General Kadovitz, I was enabled yesterday to see the works which are now in progress at the mouth of the Sereth.

The main work, a half sunken redoubt, is being constructed on the high ground about half-way between the 94 and 95 mile-posts from Sulina, and to the north of the angle formed by the Sereth and the Danube. It is intended for five guns, of which two will be directed on the Danube, and two up the Sereth in the direction of the bridge, which, on account of the bend taken by that river about a mile from its mouth, is only about 2,000 yards distant. There will be three faces to this work, each 80 metres, or about 87½ yards long, the thickness of the parapet varying from about 20 feet where facing the Danube, to between 10 and 12 feet on the more protected sides; it will be closed in rear by a parapet for musketry and a block-house will also be constructed; the magazine will be placed on the east flank.

Another smaller half-sunken battery has been planned, and the skeletons were put up ready for work to be commenced, about 500 yards to the east of the main work. This is intended for three guns.

The bridge over the Sereth, which river is here about 150 yards wide, is now guarded by sentries, two companies of the 3rd battalion of the Venatori having been sent out for this purpose; the sentries are doubled, and frequent patrols are ordered during the night. The bridge itself is about 320 yards long.

About 600 yards to the north of the bridge a small sunken battery is in course of construction, which will mount three guns, the front having a length of 3 mètres, and the flanks 15 mètres each, the thickness of the parapet varying as in the larger work.

Little progress has been made at present; there are at work in all about 350 men, of whom about 100 belong to the corps of Engineers. These latter were brought down from Bucharest at the end of last week. There are two field-pieces of old pattern in the vicinity of the bridge, and arrangements have been made by which a signal can be made at night in case of necessity.

The men who were allowed to return to their homes, as mentioned in my despatch No. 9, Political, of the 31st January, are now returning in small parties of ten or twelve at a time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 291.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 16. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February 16, 1877.*

I ENGAGED my passage from Constantinople by the first steamer leaving for Varna after the departure of the Marquis of Salisbury; this boat was delayed twenty-four hours, owing to the state of the weather. On that very day Her Majesty's Ambassador instructed me, by your Lordship's desire, to use my best efforts at my return to Belgrade with a view to induce Servia to resume peaceful relations with the Suzerain State; his Excellency further pressed me to make some stay for that purpose at Belgrade, and informed me that a Turkish official was about to proceed to that city to make overtures for peace.

Midhat Pasha gave a letter of introduction to Pertew Effendi; this having been delivered to me by a messenger from Semlin, I sought an interview with M. Ristitch, who showed himself willing to enter into negotiations with Pertew Effendi, and it was evident that the Servian Government would have been glad if peace could have been entirely negotiated here.

The instructions of the Porte precluded anything of the kind, and those of Pertew Effendi limited his mission to the task of inducing Prince Milan to send an Envoy to Constantinople with power to conclude peace there.

The Servian Government had been in the meantime greatly alarmed, as your Lordship is aware from the despatches and telegrams of Mr. Acting Agent and Consul-General St. John, by the guarantees demanded from them by the Porte, a circumstance which, combined with the action of foreign intrigue, would have been by itself sufficient to imperil the progress of these negotiations, even if Midhat Pasha had been still in power, as the instructions of Pertew Effendi were chiefly verbal ones derived from the powerful Grand Vizier who had fallen from power forty-eight hours before his Envoy had arrived in Belgrade.

I shall not trouble your Lordship with a detailed account of these proceedings here, which at one moment threatened a rupture of the negotiations, but in which I am happy to bear a testimony to the perfect tact and judgment displayed by Pertew Effendi throughout these most difficult circumstances.

These were carried on principally at my house, between Pertew and M. Ristitch, one evening as late as three the next morning.

As soon as it was known that the Porte had reduced the guarantees originally demanded from Servia to the six points, as recorded in your Lordship's telegram of the 7th instant, it became evident that Servia would be disposed to treat; the Prince was desirous that some form should be found to record in writing the points upon which a mutual agreement has been arrived at in Belgrade in these negotiations. The exchange of notes having been suggested, and indeed these had been drawn up and agreed upon by M. Ristitch and Pertew with a view to their transmission by telegraph for the approval of

the Porte, but some modifications having been subsequently introduced by the Servian Government this plan had to be abandoned.

Of the six points Servia ultimately accepted the four concerning the fortresses, and relating to non-allowing of armed bands, or of secret societies to disturb the peace of the adjoining Turkish Provinces, proposing only certain verbal modifications in them.

As regards the civil rights of Jews it was objected that this was a matter of internal legislation, and with respect to the admission of an Ottoman Agent at Belgrade, it was pointed out that his position and character must be strictly defined, that he could not be accepted as a Commissioner but merely with a Diplomatic or Consular character on an equal footing with the other foreign Representatives residing here.

On these two last points the Porte sent reassuring explanations to Pertew Effendi, an extract of which, as also a copy of the original six points, to the Prince of Servia, and this form of communication was substituted in lieu of the exchange of notes originally proposed, to which the new Grand Vizier had seen some objection.

At one moment the Prince had expressed a wish that the negotiations should be carried on at Vienna instead of at Constantinople, and that other points conducive to the establishment of good relations between the Principality and the Porte should be reserved for discussion at Constantinople, but His Highness ultimately consented to send two delegates (MM. Philip Christitch and Matitch) to settle matters, and to conclude peace at Constantinople, and they accordingly took their departure, accompanied by Pertew Effendi, as recorded in my telegram of the 14th instant.

I trust your Lordship will have reason to be satisfied with the result of these Turco-Servian negotiations as far as they have been conducted here with my assistance.

The ground has been satisfactorily broken, the points of difference have been reduced, and the peace party in Servia has been greatly strengthened thereby.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 292.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 17. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February 17, 1877.*

WHEN Prince Milan had made up his mind to send a special delegate to conclude peace at Constantinople, it was generally supposed that this mission would devolve upon M. Ristitch himself, but when the nature of the powers to be delegated to him came to be discussed in Council, it was ascertained that the Prince had determined to convoke the Grand National Assembly before concluding peace, and to ask the approbation of the representatives of his people to the terms which they expected would be given to them in the course of another week at Constantinople.

The Ministers objected to this course; they consider that it is possible that this Assembly, which differs essentially in its character from the ordinary Skupstchina, and which is much more democratic, may feel disposed to recriminate and find fault both with the Prince and his Ministers at the manner in which the late war has been conducted, and the calamities it has brought upon Servia.

It is said that it has been even hinted to the Prince that he was exposing his person and dynasty to imminent danger by meeting such an Assembly at this moment. Nothing, however, could induce him to desist. He says, that if, in reality, the confidence of his nation has got so low, he prefers ascertaining it in a public and patent manner, rather than continue to submit to continual threats of secret conspiracies or reported dangers of assassination.

His Highness further says that he is confident that peace will be concluded now with the assent of this Assembly, but that it is also possible that hostilities may break out between Russia and Turkey a few months hence, and that in such a case he would be exposed to a variety of reproaches for having sacrificed too soon the prospects of Servia, nay, he would then have to run the risk of being taken to task by some of the very men instrumental now in bringing about peace.

I may add confidentially, that there is no love lost between the Prince and his present Ministers. There may be some secret hope lurking in his heart that this is a favourable opportunity for him for getting rid of them, as it is not unlikely that a large portion of this Assembly will be but too willing to consider them chiefly responsible for all the misery and different calamities which the late war has brought upon Servia.

The elections will take place on the 20th instant, and the Assembly is to meet at Belgrade on the 26th, when it is to be hoped that the negotiations at Constantinople will be sufficiently forward so as to enable the Prince to lay the result at once before this body.

The Assembly will consist of 420 deputies, almost exclusively of the peasant class.

All persons in receipt of any salary or pension are ineligible, and therefore, no officer even of the militia, no public functionary in actual service or in receipt of a pension, can be elected; this excludes all the upper classes, with the exception of a few wealthier tradesmen; advocates are also excluded.

A very deep interest is naturally felt in the result, and many persons are alarmed at the possible consequences; I find, however, that both the Prince and his Ministers do not appear to anticipate any evil results, and certainly none that might endanger the conclusion of peace.

The Prince himself appears to be quite sensible to the necessity of restoring the wasted resources of the Principality by improving its economical and social condition, and he is fully alive to the fact that this is impossible as long as the politicians of Belgrade aim chiefly their attention to power by flattering prejudices on the public, and the sordid interests of some portion of the community.

It remains to be seen how far the convocation of a popular Assembly so peculiarly constituted as the Grand Skupstchina at such a critical moment, may conduce to strengthen the hands of the Prince sufficiently to lay the foundation of a more prosperous domestic policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 293.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 24, 1877.*

ITALIAN Consul at Scutari has sent same information as Consul Green respecting critical state of affairs in Miridicia, and Minister for Foreign Affairs had telegraphed in a similar sense as your Lordship to Scutari and Constantinople.

No. 294.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 3. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, February 12, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a letter which I have received from Dr. Crookshank, medical attendant of Mehmed Ali Pasha, relative to the conduct of the Servian soldiery in the neutral territory between Sienitza and Novi-Bazar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 294.

Dr. Crookshank to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Salonica, February 9, 1877.*

AT the request of his Excellency Mehemed Ali Pasha, Commandant of the forces of Mitrovitza and Novi-Bazar, I beg to report to you the unsatisfactory behaviour of the Servian soldiery in that district, during the month of January.

As medical attendant to his Excellency I visited these towns in company with him, on the 17th and 18th ultimo, and was able to verify the statements made by the country people in that neighbourhood. At Dutoblan, a small military station between Senitza and Novi-Bazar, scarcely a night passes but that the Servians descend into the villages in the neutral territory, and carry off all the horses and cattle they can lay hands on.

On our arrival at Novi-Bazar on the 18th ultimo a deputation of two of the principal farms

(chiflicks) of the village of Socovek, with their wives, waited on his Excellency to protest against the behaviour of the Servians stationed near there. On hearing the nature of the complaint his Excellency asked me to interrogate the deputation and to report the matter to you. The men complain that the soldiers have occupied the village, and are constantly insulting their wives, so much so, that they are afraid to leave them at home alone, and therefore they are unable to carry on their work in the fields.

On the previous day (17th ultimo) the Servians ordered all the men of the village to enrol themselves in the Servian army, and threatened, in case of refusal, to send them and their wives as prisoners to Belgrade, and confiscate their goods and cattle.

They therefore applied to his Excellency for protection, who at once took charge of them, and ordered them to bring their goods and cattle to Novi-Bazar. The same afternoon he commissioned me to go as parlementer to the village, to protest against the behaviour of the soldiers.

It appears from the Protocol, drawn up by the Mixed Commission, that the line of demarcation on the Servian side, leaving the town Dren, passes through the village of Socovek to the town of Raska. The Turkish military authorities maintain that the line passes through the village; and at a meeting held on the 16th ultimo, between a Turkish staff officer and the Servian officer in command of the advance posts, the latter acknowledged they were in the wrong and promised to remedy the mistake. On the 17th ultimo, however, they still remained there, and threatened the villagers with imprisonment; and on the 18th ultimo, when his Excellency commissioned me to parly with them, they had advanced still further beyond the village, and at one place, between Socovek and Dren, their advance posts were at half an hour's distance beyond the line of demarcation in the neutral zone. The Turkish soldiers, on the other hand, have observed the limits assigned to them in a most exemplary manner.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HARRY CROOKSHANK, *M.D., M.R.C.S., Medical Attendant to his Excellency Mehemid Ali Pasha. Surgeon to the Senitza Military Hospital.*

No. 295.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 4. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, February 12, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translated copy of the Circular letter, as published in the local Government paper "Selanik," of the 10th instant, which Edhem Pasha has addressed to the provincial authorities relative to his elevation to the Grand Viziership.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 295.

Edhem Pasha's Circular Letter, dated February 6, to the Provincial Governors, from the "Selanik" of February 10, 1877.

(Translation.)

SA Majesté le Sultan, par sa haute volonté, m'a confié le poste de Grand Vézir. A dater de ce jour, je commence à diriger les affaires de l'Etat. Puisse Dieu en qui je me confie m'aider de ses lumières!

Attendu que l'œuvre la plus éclatante de Sa Majesté Abdul Hamid, notre auguste Souverain, est la promulgation d'une Constitution qui crée de nouveaux devoirs à tous les fonctionnaires de l'Empire.

Attendu que les degrés de responsabilité attachée à ces devoirs sont nettement indiqués par cette même Constitution; attendu que les plus ardents désirs de notre auguste Souverain sont de consacrer, de protéger les droits et la tranquillité de tous les sujets Ottomans, désirs qui ont été renouvelés plus fermes que jamais, dans le dernier Hatt qui vous a été communiqué.

Il est urgent que tous les fonctionnaires de quelque grade qu'ils soient fassent tous leurs efforts pour accomplir scrupuleusement les nouveaux devoirs qui leur sont imposées. Le bien de l'Etat et la volonté souveraine l'exigent.

No. 296.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 36. Political. Confidential.)
Cairo, February 15, 1877.

My Lord,

CAPTAIN ARDAGH, R.E., having arrived at Alexandria a few days ago, I received a message from Mr. Calvert, the Acting British Consul, asking me if I could obtain facilities for an officer of Her Majesty's Intelligence Department to visit the fortifications, &c., in Egypt.

Almost simultaneously I received a telegram from Mr. Jocelyn at Constantinople, begging me to request Captain Ardagh to return to England by the first opportunity.

I have informed Mr. Calvert that this message will probably have changed Captain Ardagh's plans, but that, in any case, I could not ask for such facilities as he desired, which might give rise to serious misconstruction here, without first consulting your Lordship.

I have also received an application from Colonel Lennox, Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, asking for a detailed statement of the number and description of troops sent by Egypt as her contingent to Turkey. Cherif Pasha has promised to obtain this information for me, but meanwhile I have ascertained from the Captain of the Port at Alexandria, who is a British naval officer, that the Egyptians originally embarked at Alexandria for Turkey about 12,000 men, 500 horses, and 40 guns—Armstrongs, Gatlings, and a few Krupps.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 297.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 25.)*

(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, February 25, 1877.

HEARING that the conduct of Mirdite affairs had passed into hands of military authority, and good offices having been formally rejected by the Governor, I yesterday urged Commander-in-chief (not to abandon) as yet a conciliatory course.

His Excellency showed me letters that he was dispatching to Bib Doda and the other Chiefs, in which he summoned them to return to their allegiance, giving them two days' delay for consideration, and promising them future advantages in the event of their obedience.

I endeavoured to induce my French, Austrian, and Italian colleagues to write to Doda at the same time as myself, pressing him to take under serious consideration the Commander-in-chief's communication. I regret to say the French Consul said his instructions did not authorize him to take any such action in the matter, and my other colleagues would not move without formal invitation on the part of the Commander-in-chief. I have, therefore, little hope of Mirdites giving way before my unsupported action, and the Pasha tells me that in two days active operations will be certainly commenced against them.

Four thousand six hundred regular troops are already assembled on the confines of Mirdicia.

No. 298.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 11. Political.)
Beyrout, February 14, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that Zia Pasha, the newly-appointed Governor-General of Syria, arrived at Beyrout on the 8th instant, and on the 9th received the official visits of the members of the Consular body, which he returned on the following day.

His Excellency's suavity of manner and liberal ideas have already made a favourable

* Repeated to Paris, Rome, and Berlin.

impression in Beyrout, but it remains yet to be seen whether his talents for administration are equal to those he displays in social intercourse. He will leave for Damascus on the 16th instant, provided the road is free from snow.

In my despatch No. 10 of the 6th instant I reported the appointment of Kiamil Pasha to the post of Governor-General of Kassova, but the same day his Excellency received his official appointment as Governor-General of Aleppo, where his nomination has caused great rejoicings, if one may judge by the number of congratulatory telegrams addressed to him; he is well known in Aleppo, where, about seven years ago, he filled the post of Mutessariff during two or three years. His Excellency will leave for his new post by the first opportunity.

Telegraphic intelligence has been received that Raef Effendi, whose removal from Beyrout I reported in my despatch No. 13 of the 14th of March last to Sir Henry Elliot, has been reappointed as Mutessariff of Beyrout; this appointment has given universal satisfaction here, where he was most deservedly popular with all classes, and his departure was universally regretted, and it was only compensated by the subsequent nomination of Kiamil Pasha, whose promotion makes way for the equally worthy Raef Effendi.

In the course of my somewhat long experience in Syria, I have never met with men in an official capacity whose merits equal those of my two friends, Kiamil and Raef.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 299.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 16. Political.)
Cettigné, February 16, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12 of the 11th instant, respecting the direct negotiations for peace, I have the honour to inclose copies of further telegrams exchanged between the Porte and Montenegro, on the subject of the place most suitable to be selected as the seat of those negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 299.

The Grand Vizier to the Prince of Montenegro.

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 11 Février, 1877.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la dépêche de votre Altesse en date du 10 courant. Son contenu me fait voir que l'entente est établie en ce qui concerne les bases des négociations. Quant au lieu où le délégué de votre Altesse devrait se rencontrer avec celui de la Sublime Porte, la nature tout-à-fait spéciale des points à régler nous fait craindre que si Vienne était choisie comme siége des négociations celles-ci rencontreraient bien des retards par suite de la nécessité où notre délégué se trouverait de référer à Constantinople, où se trouvent tous les documents et toutes les personnes pouvant faciliter la tâche du Gouvernement Impérial, et, en un mot, tous les éléments qui pourraient favoriser une prompte entente.

C'est pour ces considérations, dont l'esprit éclairé de votre Altesse appréciera bien certainement toute l'importance, qu'il serait très désirable qu'elle voulut bien envoyer le plustôt possible à Constantinople la personne qu'elle se proposait d'envoyer à Vienne.

J'espère que par là on s'épargnera bien des lenteurs, et que les négociations pourront ainsi être rapidement acheminées vers le bout désiré.

Inclosure 2 in No. 299.

The Prince of Montenegro to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.)
Cettigné, le 12 Février, 1877.

EN réponse au télégramme de votre Altesse d'hier, je m'empresse de vous dire avec quelle satisfaction je vois que nous sommes d'accord sur le point de départ des négociations.

Je regrette beaucoup, seulement, que nos vues sur le lieu restent divergentes. En effet, les bases étant admises, je ne trouve pas, permettez-moi de le dire, que les raisons données par votre Altesse en faveur de Constantinople contrebalancent l'avantage que présente Vienne pour la promptitude et l'efficacité des négociations. J'espère que la Sublime Porte voudra bien prendre en favorable considération la proposition sur laquelle je crois devoir insister et consentir à traiter à Vienne.

Inclosure 3 in No. 299.

The Grand Vizier to the Prince of Montenegro.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 14 Février*, 1877, 3·5 P.M.

LE but du Gouvernement Impérial en proposant l'envoi d'un délégué à Constantinople n'était que de faciliter les négociations le plus possible, mais à la suite du télégramme de votre Altesse en date du 12 courant, le Gouvernement Impérial pense ne pouvoir mieux répondre au désir réciproque d'entamer les négociations un moment plus tôt qu'en laissant au choix de votre Altesse de fixer le siége des négociations dans une localité convenable, soit du côté de Scutari, soit du côté de l'Herzégovine. Comme le terme de l'armistice doit expirer le dernier jour de ce mois, j'attends la réponse de votre Altesse pour désigner les Délégués Ottomans qui auront pour mission de s'entendre avec ceux de votre Altesse.

Inclosure 4 in No. 299.

The Prince of Montenegro to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettigné, le 14 Février, 1877, minuit.*

JE m'empresse de remercier votre Altesse des termes obligeants de sa dépêche du 14. Tout en continuant à penser que Vienne serait un lieu de négociation infiniment préférable, je tiens à prouver mon désir de répondre aux bonnes intentions de la Sublime Porte. Puisque votre Altesse veut bien me laisser le choix, je me décide en faveur de Cattaro comme le point le plus favorable pour la prompte marche des négociations.

Inclosure 5 in No. 299.

The Grand Vizier to the Prince of Montenegro.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 15 Février*, 1877.

LE télégramme de votre Altesse en date du 14 courant que je viens de recevoir et dans lequel votre Altesse propose comme lieu de réunion des Délégués la ville de Cattaro me fait croire bien à regret que mon télégramme en date du même jour n'a pas dû être explicite. La Sublime Porte a entendu et entend laisser au choix de votre Altesse de désigner comme siége des négociations la localité qu'elle juge le plus convenable à cet effet dans les Provinces de Scutari et de l'Herzégovine. La Sublime Porte s'en rapporte entièrement à son choix. Votre Altesse appréciera, je n'en doute pas, les intentions du Gouvernement Impérial qui, en présence des hésitations qu'a rencontrées l'envoi d'un Délégué à Constantinople, s'est empressé de porter le siége des négociations sur un point tout-à-fait rapproché de la Principauté. Je prie en conséquence votre Altesse de me faire connaître quelle est la localité située en Herzégovine ou dans le Vilayet de Scutari qui lui semble devoir être le siége des négociations.

No. 300.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 26.)

(No. 176.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February* 20, 1877.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 46 of the 14th instant, I have again spoken to Baron Orczy of the pressure said to be brought to bear upon the refugees in Dalmatia by Slav sympathizers to prevent them returning to their homes; and I called his attention to the information which has been received by Her Majesty's

Government as to the recent appointments by Baron Rodich to the Presidency of the Dalmatian Diet, and to the Civil Governorship of Ragusa, of persons alleged to be notorious partisans of the insurgents. I acquainted him also with your Lordship's observations as to the improbability of the efforts of the Powers for the pacification of the Herzegovina being successful if the insurrection is encouraged by Slav sympathizers holding influential position in Dalmatia under the Austro-Hungarian Government.

Baron Orczy did not contradict my statement as to the political sympathies of the President of the Dalmatian Diet and of the Civil Governor of Ragusa, observing merely that all the Slav population in Dalmatia were well-wishers of the insurgents. This did not, however, he said, prevent them being now extremely anxious to get rid of the refugees, who, I might rest assured, would receive no encouragement to remain. He repeated, also, what I reported in my despatch No. 87 of the 1st instant as to the better class of them being disposed to return if the amnesty granted last year were extended, a measure which, he said the Turkish Ambassador had promised to recommend to the Porte.

He said what principally, however, deterred the refugees from returning home is the fear of ill-treatment from insurgent bands who appear from time to time in different parts of the country, a state of things which may be expected to last until peace is re-established between Montenegro and the Porte, and Prince Nicholas engages to use his influence with the insurgents to induce them to lay down their arms.

No answer appears to have been as yet received from Constantinople to the Turkish Ambassador's recommendation, and it is not improbable, therefore, that the question of prolonging the period of the amnesty which has been offered will be arranged during the negotiations for peace about to be commenced between the Porte and the Prince of Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 301.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 26.)

(No. 180. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February* 22, 1877.

MR. MONSON was unable by the last post from Cettigné to forward a report of his communications with the Prince of Montenegro, which have resulted in his inducing His Highness to send Delegates to Constantinople to treat for peace.

From a private letter, however, which I have received from him, he appears to have strenuously endeavoured, before receiving your Lordship's telegram of the 14th instant, to impress upon the Prince the expediency of his deciding to do so, though he only eventually succeeded on communicating your instructions to His Highness.

Colonel Thömmel, the Austrian Military Agent, appears to have acted cordially with him in impressing on the Prince, that it was his interest to remove rather than to raise obstacles to an arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 302.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 26.)

(No. 181. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February* 23, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 147, on the subject of Suleiman Bey's arrival at Vienna, I have now ascertained that he was the bearer of presents, as well as of a letter from the Sultan to the Emperor.

It appears that they were sent by the advice of Baron Schlechter, who arrived here lately from Constantinople. Count Andrassy has, I am told, expressed serious displeasure to him for the part which he has taken in the matter, and his Excellency informed Suleiman Bey that it was quite impossible for the Emperor, under present circumstances, to accept presents from the Sultan without his doing so giving rise to misrepresentations as to the policy of the Empire.

Suleiman Bey, however, was received yesterday by the Emperor, when His Majesty's answer to the Sultan's letter was delivered to him, no reference having been made to the question of the presents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 303.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 182. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 23, 1877.*

THE newspapers having lately reported that the Turkish military authorities in the Herzegovina are building block-houses on the Dalmatian frontier, I asked Baron Orczy whether the statement was correct; but his Excellency seemed to have no information on the subject.

I learn, however, from the Turkish Ambassador that Count Andrassy has spoken to him of the report, observing that he had no objection to measures being taken for the defence of the frontier, but that he must insist upon the Porte carrying into immediate effect the reforms which they had agreed to in their answer to his note of December, 1875.

His Excellency appears, at the same time, to have remonstrated against the alleged intention of the Porte to publish a Yellow Book of Diplomatic Correspondence, declaring that, if his advice to the Turkish Government is to be made public, he will cease to have any confidential communications with them in future.

On Aleko Pasha asking his Excellency's opinion as to the probability of war, he said he considered it less certain than it had been some weeks ago, and that he hoped, if it could not be prevented altogether, that it would, at all events, be limited to Asia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 304.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 75. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 24, 1877.*

THE friends of peace believe that the coming Turco-Russian war might be averted if the Powers built Russia a golden bridge to help her out of her present dilemma, that the Powers are waiting to follow the lead of England in answering the Russian Circular, and that England is waiting to see what Turkey will do before answering it, so that Russia, unanswered and isolated, and, therefore, unable to demobilize without even the semblance of a national satisfaction to uphold her honour, will be compelled to go to war, however much she would prefer peace.

A person in a high position, and in the enjoyment of intimate relations with the Russian Court, but who, for obvious reasons, does not wish to be named, tells me, in the strictest confidence, that in the opinion of the Czar and Prince Gortchakow the foundations of the golden bridge might be laid as follows:—

"Le seul moyen d'assurer la paix générale et d'arriver à une solution immédiate des difficultés serait de prévenir l'action isolée de la Russie.

"Pour atteindre ce but il faut:—

"1. Que l'accord Européen soit maintenu.

"2. Que cet accord garantisse l'amélioration du sort des Chrétiens, afin que la Russie puisse justifier la démobilisation de son armée.

"Il est donc à désirer que la réponse à la Circulaire contienne les déclarations suivantes:—

"1. Maintien par les Puissances de leur exigence unanime en faveur de l'amélioration réelle du sort des populations Chrétiennes.

"2. Proposition d'accorder à la Turquie le terme d'un an pour assurer l'exécution des réformes nécessaires.

"3. S'il était constaté à l'expiration de ce terme que la Porte n'a pas tenu ses engagements, l'Europe imposerait des garanties d'exécution qui serait à préciser en temps et lieu."

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 305.

The Governor-General of the Vilayet of the Danube to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, February 26.)

(Télégraphique.) *Rustchuk, le 24 Février, 1877.*

IL y a deux mois trente ouvriers, chargés par l'autorité locale, en compagnie de quelques agents de celle-ci, faisaient des coupes de bois dans l'Ile Pirgos, appartenant au territoire du vilayet, et qui n'est nullement contestée par le Gouvernement Princier. Ils furent attaqués le $\frac{8}{21}$ courant par cinquantes soldats Valaques, placés sous le commandement d'un officier, et qui, après avoir fait feu sur eux, ont tué un Conseiller Municipal et un des ouvriers, et arrêté treize ouvriers, qui ont été amenés, sous escorte, à Giurgévo. Le vilayet, comme c'est son droit, fera les démarches nécessaires à cet égard. L'Agence Havas a publié une nouvelle qui est tout-à-fait contraire aux faits.

No. 306.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, February 25, 1877.*

I HAVE telegraphed the following to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople:—

"Received your telegram of last night.

"Both the Governor and the Commander-in-chief have this day written to Mirdite Chiefs to say that Marco will be released provided the blockade of the high roads is raised. I am not quite sure that the Chiefs will act upon the simple promise of the Turkish authorities.

"I am led to believe that the Porte has given strict orders that no foreign intervention of any kind is to be permitted, and that Doda is to be treated as a rebel. The Chiefs are not likely to separate themselves from Doda, and therefore matters will probably remain unsettled as long as influence of this Chief is ignored.

"Sent home."

No. 307.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Rome, and Vienna.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 26, 1877.*

YOU will communicate substance of Mr. Green's telegram* to Government to which you are accredited, and express hope of Her Majesty's Government that their Representative may be authorized to act in concert with Mr. Green, in recommending conciliation.

No. 308.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February 26, 1877, 2·12 P.M.*

THE National Assembly met to-day for preliminary business.

The Prince will open it in person two days later.

Violent speeches are expected against the Porte; the sittings will therefore be held with closed doors. Majority of delegates appear in favour of peace.

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* No. 297.

No. 309.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February 26, 1877.*

FRENCH Ambassador at St. Petersburgh telegraphs to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Emperor Alexander said to him that a manifesto of the Porte engaging to execute such of the recommendations of the Conference as its own Plenipotentiaries had accepted might simplify many things.

The Ambassador does not vouch for giving the exact words of the Emperor, but is sure of His Majesty's meaning.

No. 310.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 98.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 26, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 21st instant, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve your having communicated to the Sultan the substance of the instructions which were telegraphed to you on the 20th instant respecting the execution of capital sentences on the authors of atrocities in Bulgaria, who have been convicted by the Commission.

You cannot too strongly impress upon the Porte the feeling which prevails among all classes in England with regard to these outrages.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 311

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 50. Secret.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 26, 1877.*

THE Russian Ambassador mentioned to me this afternoon, in strict confidence, the substance of a telegram which he had received from Prince Gortchakow.

Prince Gortchakow stated that there was no truth in the rumour that any decision had been taken in the Councils which had been held on Thursday and Saturday, under the presidency of the Emperor.

Russia, his Highness continued, had now 500,000 men under arms, and ready for action. Nevertheless she preferred a pacific solution. But for this purpose the Russian Government must have some serious grounds to justify their disarming, after the sacrifices which had been imposed on the country. It depended on the Powers to render such a solution possible, by maintaining the necessity of a real improvement in the condition of the Christian population of Turkey, and by declaring that when the term allowed for carrying into effect the reforms had expired without sufficient result, they would seek the means of imposing them.

The improvement of the condition of the Christian population would thus, Prince Gortchakow said, remain under the guarantee of Europe, and there would be no necessity for Russia to separate herself from the rest of the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 312

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 117 B. Most Confidential.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 26, 1877.*

THE French Ambassador informed me, confidentially, on the 23rd instant, that Vuhan Effendi, Secretary to the Turkish Minister of Justice, who has been sent on a mission to Paris and London to study the forms of French and English judicial procedure, was the bearer of a message from the Grand Vizier, intimating the intention of the Porte to carry

out in substance the plan of reforms that had been proposed by the Representatives of the Powers in the final sittings of the Conference at Constantinople.

On the following day the Marquis d'Harcourt showed me, confidentially, a copy of the letter from the Grand Vizier to the Duc Decazes, of which Vahan Effendi was the bearer. I inclose a copy herewith for your Excellency's confidential information. You will perceive that it does not contain such an assurance as was mentioned by M. d'Harcourt, but his Excellency informs me that the statement of which he had given me the purport was made verbally to the Duc Decazes by Vahan Effendi.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 313.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 117 C.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 26, 1877.*

I HAVE this day caused to be repeated to your Excellency a telegram, dated the 25th instant, from Consul Green, in regard to the present state of Mirdite affairs, in which he states the nature of his communications with the Commander-in-chief, in order that, if possible, a conciliatory course might still be pursued towards the insurgents, and reports his representations to his French, Austrian, and Italian colleagues, with a view to a joint action with the same object.

As, however, it further appears from Mr. Green's telegram that none of the Consular Officers above named felt themselves justified in moving in this matter without further instructions, I have to request that your Excellency will, in communicating to the French Government the substance of the accompanying telegram, express the hope entertained by Her Majesty's Government that the necessary authority may be given to their Representative to act in concert with Mr. Green in his conciliatory recommendations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 314.

Lord Tenterden to the Anglo-Jewish Association.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 26, 1877.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will inform the Anglo-Jewish Association that a despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Bucharest, stating that three sub-Prefects have been dismissed in the districts which were the scene of the late outrages on Jews in Moldavia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 315.

Lord Tenterden to MM. Zancoff and Balabanow.

Gentlemen, *Foreign Office, February 26, 1877.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, inclosing a petition from the Christian inhabitants of Tatar-Bazardjik, denouncing the petitions of thanks to the Sultan for the grant of a Constitution.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

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* A similar despatch was sent to Sir A. Paget and Sir A. Buchanan.

No. 316.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 8. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, February 16, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that active warlike preparations are being made by Austria all along the Save. Provisions, forage, and ammunition are being stored in large quantities, and cannon on the new principle invented by Colonel Uchatius are constantly arriving.

Twenty tons of biscuits, 200 tons of flour, 400 tons of oats, and 750 tons of hay have been already stored, I am told, at Brood. Thirty-six pieces of field artillery have also been received there, and sixty more are shortly expected. Similar preparations are said to have been made at Vinkovtze, Esseg, and other stations in the vicinity of the frontier.

Instructions have also been received at the Austrian Consulate in this town to order all Austrian subjects in this country belonging to the Honved or Hungarian reserve force to hold themselves in readiness to join, in the event of their corps being mobilized.

From the Herzegovina, I am informed that the new Commander-in-chief, Suleiman Pasha, in fear of an Austrian invasion, has stationed twenty battalions of infantry in the vicinity of the Dalmation frontier between Stolatz and Gabella.

The conviction that sooner or later there will be an Austrian occupation of this province seems to be daily gaining strength here. This prospect, however, causes no panic or excitement, and there is undoubtedly a large party among the native Mahommedans who, though they dare not openly avow it, consider such an occupation, if not desirable, at all events, unavoidable, as they despair of any amelioration of affairs under their own Government. The news of late events at Constantinople and the fall of Midhat Pasha have largely contributed to this end.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 317.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 17. Political.)

Cettigné, February 17, 1877.

My Lord,

HAVING forwarded yesterday in my despatch No. 16 of that date complete copies of the telegrams which have lately been exchanged between Constantinople and Cettigné, respecting the choice of a suitable place as the seat of negotiations, it becomes my duty to report succinctly to your Lordship the course of events here which has led Prince Nicholas to announce to the Grand Vizier, in the telegram of which the inclosed is a copy, that he consented to send his Delegates to Constantinople.

The Prince had, as I reported to your Lordship, been for some days absent at his country residence, more than twelve hours distant from Cettigné. Upon his return three days ago I found that his dislike to begin the negotiations on Turkish soil was as great as ever, so great, in fact, that I had but little hope of his giving way under any pressure. When the Grand Vizier sent a telegram so indefinitely worded that, while precluding Vienna, it yet gave the Prince the choice of any place in Dalmatia, His Highness, after hesitating between Ragusa and Cattaro, decided in favour of the latter. This decision was telegraphed at midnight of the $\frac{14th}{15th}$ instant. The next morning I went to the Palace, and had more than two hours conversation with the Prince, and another of equal length during the afternoon, at the latter of which I was able to communicate to His Highness the advice contained in your Lordship's telegram of the previous day, without, as I feared at the time, making much impression against his determination. The telegram from Edhem Pasha, excusatory of the vagueness of his previous message, arrived late in the evening of the 15th. The Prince sent at once to Colonel Thömmel and to me, requesting us to come to the Palace. We found His Highness very much annoyed at the reply of the Grand Vizier, which he read to us in the presence of the Secretary of the Russian Consulate, the President of the Senate, the Director of the Diplomatic Chancellerie, and His Highness' own private Secretary. He then asked us what we advised him to do. As it seemed to me that negotiations either at Scutari, Trebigné, or Mostar, would be attended with many disadvantages, I told His Highness that in selecting any of these

places, he would have to negotiate with subordinates instead of directly with the Ministers of the Porte, and most probably also with subordinates badly disposed towards himself. Moreover I thought it would be more consonant with his own dignity to treat at Constantinople than at a provincial town. If, therefore, His Highness could bring himself to make a concession, which I thought he might now reasonably decide upon doing, and consent to treat on Turkish soil, I should advise him, and I thought that Her Majesty's Government would advise him, to send his Delegates to Constantinople.

Colonel Thömmel, who has received no hint of the wishes of his Government, gave His Highness similar counsel.

The Russian Secretary said a few words in favour of maintaining the preference for Vienna, and His Highness' immediate advisers seemed to prefer Scutari.

The Prince, having listened attentively to all of us, terminated the discussion by saying, "I decide for Constantinople"; and as it was then midnight, His Highness added that he would not despatch his telegram until the following morning.

The President of the Senate will leave Cattaro by the steamer of the 21st instant; and will be accompanied, I believe, either by M. Radonich or M. Duby.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 317.

The Prince of Montenegro to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.)

Cettigné, le 16 *Février*, 1877.

J'Ai l'honneur de répondre à la dépêche de votre Altesse en date d'hier. Je crois inutile de revenir sur les avantages évidents qui m'avaient fait préférer Vienne ou au moins Cattaro pour l'ouverture des négociations de paix. Puisque la Sublime Porte ne peut absolument pas entrer dans ces considérations, je me détermine à lui donner une nouvelle preuve de mes dispositions conciliantes, et pour entrer dès lors plus entièrement dans ses vues, je me décide à faire partir mes délégués pour Constantinople même par le premier bateau à vapeur.

No. 318.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 28. Political.)

Bucharest, February 19, 1877.

My Lord,

AT a Cabinet Council on Saturday night the 17th instant, it was decided that the "permanent army" is to be reduced by 4,000 men, the "cadres" being retained.

Various credits for military purposes, which had been voted by the Chamber, and had not received the assent of the Prince, will also be dropped.

With a deficit amounting to two-thirds of the usual revenue of this country, it cannot of course be expected that the above will be an immediate remedy to the financial embarrassments of Roumania, but it is a step in the right direction, and shows that M. Sturdza, the new Minister of Finance, is in earnest in carrying out his financial programme.

The permanent army of Roumania on paper amounts to 17,000 of all ranks; but none of the corps were complete, and the actual effective numbered something over 15,000; this will be reduced to something over 10,000, from which must be roughly deducted 1,500 officers, staff, &c., and 2,000 men, representing clerks, orderlies, servants, and other casualties, so that the effective, after the present reduction, may perhaps amount to 7,000 men, a force which is not excessive for the necessary duties in Bucharest and Jassy, and to aid the civil power, if so called upon.

The number of officers should also be reduced, which is a more difficult matter; the process of absorption would be slow, as the Roumanian army has been so short a time on its present effective, that even the seniors are in the prime of life.

Roumania being surrounded by powerful neighbours, has no need of more than 6,000 or 7,000 men, and it is much to be regretted that so much money has been wasted in keeping out the reserves during the months of October, November, December, and January.

On different occasions I, as well as several of my colleagues, took opportunities of

pointing out to various members of the Government, the inutility of premature, or, indeed, any mobilization; but M. Jonesco met us with florid asseverations "that Roumania would spend her last franc and her last man in protecting her frontier from violation," &c., &c. The last franc, however, has become a reality, and the reserves were really only dismissed when the treasury was so empty that it became impossible to pay for the daily rations.

M. Bratiano is only now adopting the policy which he ought to have pursued from the beginning of the present phase of the Eastern difficulty, dating from the autumn, namely, of admitting that Roumania is, and ought to be, no factor in the present crisis. He seems now, at least, to recognize that if the Russian armies desire to pass through this country, that pass they must; and that it is only the duty of this Government to endeavour to procure that the passage should be as little detrimental as possible to Roumania, its Government, and its institutions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 319.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 142.) *Paris, February 26, 1877.*

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship has been informed by the Marquis d'Harcourt of the communications which have taken place between the Duc Decazes and Vahan Effendi, who has been sent by the Porte on a Special Mission to Paris and London.

Vahan Effendi told me this afternoon that he was only waiting for the tempestuous weather to subside, and that he hoped to go to England on the day after to-morrow, or the day after that.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 320.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 26, 1877.*

I HAVE been informed that the Porte's demand for the insertion of a clause respecting Ottoman Agent at Belgrade, in the note to be addressed to the Grand Vizier by the Servian Government, has met with decided opposition from M. Christich.

Such a concession would, he says, be certainly ill received by the Skuptschina now assembled, and would inevitably provoke fresh intrigues on the part of Russia to compromise the stability of a peace concluded under such conditions.

He thinks that if your Lordship could urge, through Musurus Pasha, Porte to forego this point, they would probably give way.

Besides the note a Protocol will be signed by both parties in which the amnesty will be mentioned; and, should difficulty respecting Agent be overcome, the preliminaries of peace can be signed forthwith.

This information Servian Agent communicated to me confidentially.

No. 321.

The Earl of Derby to Musurus Pasha.

(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, February 27, 1877.*

M. l'Ambassadeur,

FROM information which I have received by telegraph from Constantinople, it appears that the negotiations for peace between the Porte and Servia are being impeded by the demand for the insertion of a clause respecting the appointment of an Ottoman Agent at Belgrade, which is considered likely to provoke opposition in the Servian Skuptschina, and thus to prevent the conclusion of a satisfactory and lasting settlement. On the other hand, if this difficulty could be overcome, the preliminaries of peace might be signed forthwith.

Her Majesty's Government cannot suppose that the Porte attaches much real importance to this question of an Agent at Belgrade, and they feel therefore that they are acting

in a friendly spirit as mediators, in counselling the Turkish Government to show themselves conciliatory on the subject, and thus admit of the conclusion of peace, the importance of which to the Ottoman Empire cannot be exaggerated.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 322.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 26, 1877.*

I HAVE received the following from Monson, dated to-day:—

(Decypher.) For Lord Derby.

Prince Nicholas assures me that he has given strict orders that at the expiration of the armistice no movement which can be construed in an offensive sense shall be made by his troops, who will continue to occupy their present positions, and will only defend themselves if attacked.

I think that His Highness hopes that Her Majesty's Government will induce Porte to propose prolongation of the armistice as soon as his Delegates arrive at Constantinople.

No. 323.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27, 6·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 27, 1877, 4·45 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs, in speaking to me to-day of the sentences passed upon the convicted Turks and Bulgarians, wished to ascertain the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to the effect to be given to your Lordship's suggestions to Odian Effendi, as mentioned at the close of your Lordship's despatch No. 49 of the 29th ultimo.

The question of the extent to which the amnesty is to affect prisoners now under sentence embarrasses the Porte's action, and he has commissioned me to ask whether your Lordship would recommend that only those condemned to death should undergo sentence, or whether some under minor sentences should be included in the same category, and if so, where the line should be drawn.

I suggested as my personal opinion that all capitally convicted, whether their sentences have been commuted or not, should form the class excluded from amnesty, but I promised to refer the question to your Lordship.

No. 324.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 27, 1877.*

I COMMUNICATED to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs this morning the substance of your telegram of yesterday, embodying Mr. Green's telegram of the 24th, and inviting Austrian co-operation to prevent hostilities between Dervish Pasha and the Mirdites.

His Excellency promised to communicate my memorandum to Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, but said it appeared probable, from a telegram of 25th instant from Austrian Consul at Scutari, that a collision had already taken place in which the Turkish troops must, in his opinion, have been defeated. He considers Dervish Pasha to be seeking an opportunity for re-establishing his military reputation, and to be entirely responsible for the present difficulties, and that no representations are therefore likely to induce Bib Doda to place confidence in his Excellency's promises or to make any concession until his delegates imprisoned at Scutari are released.

I urged, however, that the intervention of the Consuls, by moderating the pretensions of the Mirdites and giving moral weight to the Pasha's promises, might bring about a pacific arrangement; and, as I met Minister for Foreign Affairs returning to Ministry as

I left it, I acquainted him verbally with your Lordship's wishes, and pressed upon him the expediency of complying with them.

He said that Bib Doda has always been recommended by Austria not to join Montenegro, and to avoid offending the Porte; and he promised to consider whether he could not assist Her Majesty's Government in preventing a complication which it is desirable to avert.

No. 325.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 27, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, February 27, 1877, 6 P.M.*

I AM informed that no definite decision was taken at the Council held on Saturday; the tone was pacific, but it was decided to await further information from London, and the conclusion of the Turco-Servian peace negotiations.

Might not the Porte, in notifying the conclusion of peace, also announce to Powers its intention to reduce its army to peace effective, but without any reference whatever to Russian armaments?

It might also announce its acceptance of and intention to carry out the reforms recommended by the Conference, or at least a portion of them. This would greatly facilitate pacific solution by Emperor of Russia. Prince Gortchakow told me to-day that Russia had 400,000 men ready to march, and that the Porte should not be led astray by reports of Russia being unprepared or determined for peace at all price.

I have thought it right to speak to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires here in the above sense.

No. 326.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 11.) *Scutari, February 16, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have, under your Lordship's permission of the 7th instant, been using my best endeavours to induce the Turkish authorities to avail themselves of my good offices for coming to a satisfactory arrangement with the Mirdites, but that, up to this day, notwithstanding reiterated expressions by these authorities of their desire for an amicable settlement, they have followed a course only calculated to attain an opposite result.

They have reverted to the system of spreading mythical reports of the pacification of Mirdicia, and pretending that only Prenk Bib Doda and some of his retainers are, under foreign instigation, manufacturing a fictitious insurrection; whilst, in reality, the high roads through Mirdicia continue to be closely watched by large bodies of mountaineers who prevent everybody and everything connected with the Turkish Government from passing, and the Moslem prisoners are still held as hostages at Orosci.

I believe that the above conduct of the Turkish authorities is governed by the wish to keep matters in their present state until the expected peace with Montenegro is concluded, when it is hoped that an expedition with an overwhelming military force will be able to crush, once and for ever, the Mirdite organization.

Past experience ought, however, to make the Turks very doubtful of the success of an undertaking of this nature, and which would at once lend colour to Prenk Bib Doda's assertion of planned massacres.

From the inclosed copy and translation of a letter received by me yesterday from Capitan Marco, one of the Chiefs alluded to in my despatch No. 6 of the 3rd instant, your Lordship will observe that a favourable opening is afforded for bringing about the desired understanding between the Turkish authorities and Prenk Bib Doda; but, as I have said before, I have not yet been able to induce the former to avail themselves of it. I have only succeeded in obtaining a promise from Dervish Pasha, the Commander-in-chief, and who appears the most disposed towards conciliation, that he will delay as long as possible the execution of an order he says he has received from the Porte to commence military operations against the Mirdites; but, as his promise has bound him to no fixed time, and, as I understand, he has already increased the force around Mirdicia, the present inaction may cease at any moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIKBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 326.

Capitan Marco to Consul Kirby Green.

(Translation.) *Orosci, February 12, 1877.*

Mr. Consul,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your respected letter of the 2nd of the current month, which arrived rather late, owing to the many stations on the way, and I am exceedingly grateful for your valuable mediation with the authorities of Scutari, whereby I and my son may now return to our usual occupations and duties. His Excellency Dervish Pasha writes to me in the same sense, consequently I do not know how to express to you my gratitude except by awaiting to be able to demonstrate it by acts and through deeds.

As soon as I received your letter I did not fail to make his Excellency Prenk Pasha observe and seriously consider that it was high time that he should put himself in good harmony with the Imperial Ottoman authorities, and forget all misunderstanding or suspicions, fomented probably by evil-intentioned people who had no other object but to create dissensions in order to compass their own profit and ends, and, at the same time, I inspired him with the certainty that you, with that goodness which so distinguishes you, would not refuse to use your powerful mediation in order to arrive at a loyal and frank arrangement with the Imperial Ottoman authorities.

Convinced by my arguments, he replied that he had no other wish but to find himself on the same footing towards the Imperial Government of good harmony, concord, and devotion as had been held by his ancestors, and he showed himself much disposed to fall in with the instructions conveyed to me, as I was leaving Scutari, by his Excellency Dervish Pasha.

In view of the good turn things are taking, I have thought it well to announce the fact immediately to you and to his Excellency Dervish Pasha (to whom I have also written to-day on the subject), and to remain here until the arrival of the new instructions you may have both to give me.

I have also the honour to inform you that I have been most careful to bring under his Excellency Prenk Pasha's notice the efficacy and validity of your good offices, and which are calculated to deprive him of the slightest misgiving as to the paternal intentions regarding him of the Imperial Government; and, believing that I have acted according to the wishes of the latter, I have put off my return to Scutari for some days longer.

Under the present circumstances, and for the purpose of giving a greater impulse to my proceedings, I think it would be well that the authorities of Scutari should avail themselves of the good dispositions awakened by me to send some kind of pecuniary aid, in order to do away with the backslidings which might possibly be fomented by some one who has access to the young Pasha.

Persuaded that you will be pleased to favourably consider the foregoing, I have, &c.

(Signed and Sealed) CAPIDAN MARCO.

No. 327.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 6. Political. Confidential.) *Odessa, February 20, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 1, Confidential, of the 18th January, only received by me on the 12th instant, I have the honour to state that I have been unable to obtain information which warrants me in stating positively that the vessels of the Russian Steam Navigation Company are to be armed with torpedoes.

They are certainly completely under the control of Government.

Mr. Haunnan, the directing engineer of the Company, left a short time ago for Vienna and London, with sealed orders to be opened in Vienna. It is thought very

probable that his mission is connected with the purchase of torpedoes, as well as to inspect the swift torpedo vessel building for the Russian Government by Yarrow at Poplar.

There is no doubt that the vessels of the Company could be easily and quickly manned by trained seamen, and I know that at Nicolaef a class is held where seamen are instructed in laying down mines and torpedoes. The naval cadets, youths from sixteen to twenty, also attend this class.

It would require a very great expenditure and thorough transformation to render these vessels formidable assailants of vessels of war, and the southern arsenals do not provide the means.

They might certainly he used as transports and as torpedo vessels, but it would be very strange if, on declaration of war, one of them or one of their ships of war were allowed by the enemy to leave port.

Four steamers would suffice as a blockading squadron, viz., one each at Odessa, Ochakof, Kertch, and Sevastopol.

The Government have taken over from the Company four steamers, the "Argonaut," "Mithridate," "Odessa," and "Vesta."

The first is a fast little boat of about 400 tons and 12 knots; the second is the same size and of 10 knots; the other two are of about 800 tons and 8 knots.

The "Taurida" is the only other vessel belonging to the Company whose speed exceeds 10 knots.

Few of them exceed 9 knots.

The "Argonaut" was fitted with some gear for lifting torpedoes.

On her voyage to Sevastopol she met something of a sea, and the whole arrangement came to pieces.

I presume she has been repaired there, but as there is no British Consular Representative at Sevastopol, I obtain no information as to what is being done there.

I had the honour, in my despatch No. 5, Political, of the 29th January, to submit some remarks on the Russian war navy and merchant vessels in the Black Sea, which, in a certain measure, gave the information your Lordship has instructed me to obtain.

I regret that, at present, I can obtain nothing more positive, it being difficult here to obtain accurate information without attracting attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 328.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 27, 1877, 11 P.M.*

I HAVE been informed by M. Christich that the Porte has given way upon the question of the Agent at Belgrade, and that conclusion of peace may be regarded as settled as soon as Sultan has issued the necessary Firman.

No. 329.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February 27, 1877.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs seems to shrink from the responsibility of encouraging Mirdites to trust to the Turkish promises made to them.

No. 330.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February 28, 1877.*

THE Great Assembly voted unanimously this morning in favour of peace, after which it was immediately dissolved.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 331.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28, 3·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February 28, 1877, 12·30 P.M.*

ITALIAN Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople has telegraphed that he believes the Porte intends, on the conclusion of peace with Servia and Montenegro, to summon Russia to disarm, or to propose simultaneous disarmament by Russia and Turkey.

Turkish Minister here says that he has no knowledge of such an intention.

No. 332.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 28, 1877, 4 P.M.*

HAS Mr. Baring yet furnished the detailed statement of the punishments on account of occurrences in Bulgaria, required in my telegram of the 15th instant?

It would be sufficient if the information were down to the 9th or the 15th instant. Mr. Gladstone is pressing for it.

No. 333.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 28, 1877, 5·5 P.M.*

THE suggestion I made to Odian Effendi must have been misunderstood. I did not recommend that any persons convicted of the Bulgarian massacres should be respited or amnestied.

The suggestion was that a large number of those imprisoned for being concerned in the insurrection should be amnestied as political offenders.

No. 334.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February 28, 1877, 2·15 P.M.*

PORTE telegraphed last night to the Prince of Montenegro, proposing a prolongation of the armistice to the 21st of March.

Delegates are expected to-morrow.

No. 335.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 104. Political.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 28, 1877.*

I HAVE received your telegram of the 27th instant, and I have to point out in reply that the suggestion which I made to Odian Effendi must have been misunderstood. I did not recommend that any persons convicted of having been concerned in the massacres in Bulgaria should be respited or exempted from punishment.

The suggestion was that an amnesty should be granted to a large number of those imprisoned for being concerned in the insurrection as political offenders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 336.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 106.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 28, 1877.*

MR. KIRBY GREEN, in his despatch No. 9 of the 10th instant, of which he has furnished you with a copy, reports that steps are being taken by the Turkish authorities

to fix upon a locality between the towns of Tirana and Durazzo, for the establishment of a Circassian Colony, to consist of sixty families.

Her Majesty's Government regret that the Porte still persists in introducing among the Christian population of European Turkey, large bodies of Circassians, and you will not fail to remonstrate, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, against so unwise a step and one so certain to lead to misunderstanding.

I am, &c.
Signed) DERBY.

No. 337.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 5.) *Foreign Office, February* 28, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 17, of the 17th instant, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the advice you gave to Prince Nicholas, to select Constantinople as the place for carrying on negotiations, with the view to bringing about peace between the Porte and Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 338.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 55.) *Foreign Office, February* 28, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 180, Confidential, of the 22nd instant, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government has learnt with satisfaction Mr. Monson's successful efforts so far to bring about an understanding between the Prince of Montenegro and the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 339.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(No. 114.) *Foreign Office, February* 28, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE to request you to inform me whether the detailed statement of the punishments carried out on account of occurrences in Bulgaria, which were required in my telegram of the 15th instant, have yet been furnished by Mr. Baring.

If the information were down to the 9th or 15th instant it would be sufficient.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY

No. 340.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February* 28, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 28, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

THE Protocol and Note, which have been approved by the Skuptschina, will be signed at the Porte to-morrow morning.

Protocol contains three Articles: first, announcing the issue of Firman; secondly, amnesty to all concerned in late war; thirdly, evacuation of territory within twelve days. It will be signed by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Delegates.

Note will enumerate four points: first, fortresses and flag; secondly, prevention of armed bands entering Turkey; thirdly, secret societies; fourthly, Jewish disabilities.

It will be signed by the Delegates.

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* Repeated to Embassies.